No Cabinet revamp; the 'other' Alvarez stays

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Next on Fergie: Problem in-laws

MOVE OVER, OPRAH!
Fergie

LOS ANGELES—Next on "Fergie"—how to deal with problem in-laws.

This and other weighty topics could be up for discussion on American television

NEXT/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Basilan heroine buried

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Emotions ran high when the heroic nurse held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf for more than a year and slain in a rescue attempt last June 7 was laid to rest at around 11 a.m. yesterday.

The mourners—who, according to observers, numbered more than those who attended the Independence Day

BASILAN/A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, June 15, 2002 ★ 94 pages 9 sections vol.17 no. 187 P15
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Loren jumps ship

3 administration senators now recognize 'new majority' in Senate

By Rocky Nazareno

THE STANDOFF in the Senate appears to have been breached with three administration senators now publicly declaring their recognition of the opposition as the "new majority" in the chamber.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste yesterday said the opposition had the numbers. She even proposed a new majority coalition in the Senate composed of administration and opposition legislators.

Sen. Robert Barbers likewise admitted that there now exists a new majority although he was still questioning the legality of the procedure by which the opposition senators took over the Senate leadership.

And earlier, Sen. Juan Flavier gave up his chairmanship of the Senate health committee in acknowledgement of the fact that there was now a new majority.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, through a deft political move, appeared to be instrumental in Legarda's change of heart.

Legarda yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER Angara's efforts "to reach out with wide open arms." She said his gesture prompted her to "explor(e) a working coalition" with the opposition to resolve the Senate stalemate.

"We should all set aside party affiliation and personal interests for the sake of the country," Legarda said.

According to the Lakas-NUCD solon, she was scheduled to speak in Antique on June 12 upon the invitation of Antique Gov. Sally Perez.

She was supposed to take a commercial flight but Legarda said she received a call from Angara asking her if he could "escort" her and if she wanted to join him on a private plane to Antique.

"I felt that he was reaching out with open arms," Legarda said.

She said Antiqueños were "pleasantly surprised" to see her and Angara together on the stage during the Independence Day celebration.

"He even referred to himself as the escort of Senator Legarda," she said.

To top that off, Angara even called her "the next President or Vice President in 2004."

LOREN/A4

LONELY FIGURE: Sef Gonzales, lone survivor of and later principal suspect in the massacre of his family, cuts a lonely figure at the Sydney cemetery where his parents and sister were buried a year ago.
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, AUSTRALIA

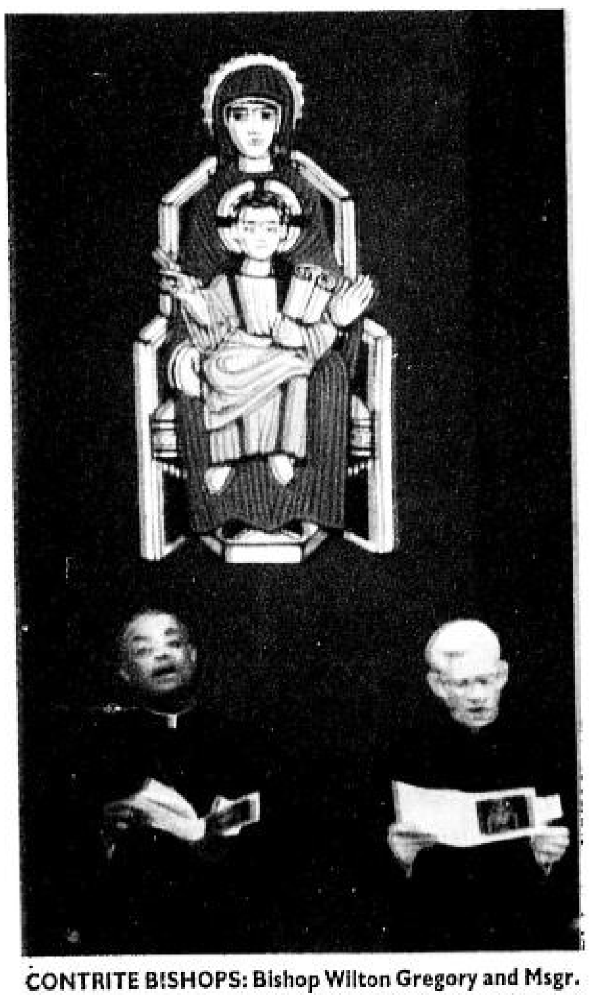
US bishops apologize for pedophile priests

DALLAS, Texas—US Roman Catholic bishops on Thursday asked for forgiveness from victims of pedophile priests as they kicked off a crucial conference here to respond to a festering sexual abuse scandal that has torn the US branch of the Church asunder.

"The Catholic Church in the United States is in a very grave crisis, perhaps the gravest we have faced," said conference chair Wilton Gregory, as he opened the three-day event.

Then turning to directly address abuse victims, the Belleville, Illinois, bishop expressed his "heartfelt contrition."

US/A6



CONTRITE BISHOPS: Bishop Wilton Gregory and Msgr. William Fay lead the prayer at the US bishops conference where apologies were made for pedophile priests. AP

Sef Gonzales: Behind the baby face . . .

AFTER 11 months and many encounters, police reporter Kara Lawrence reports on the person behind the public face of Sef Gonzales *(Reprinted with permission from The Daily Telegraph).*

THE FIRST thing that strikes you when you meet Sef Gonzales is how small in stature—almost childlike—he is.

The youth, who was charged Thursday with murdering his entire immediate family, is slim and stands about 164cm (5 feet, 5 inches) at most.

With his thin wire-rimmed spectacles and baby face and favoring hip casual clothes such as blue jeans and windcheaters, he appears younger than his 21 years.

He is softly spoken and displays old-fashioned good manners by always pulling out a chair or holding open a door for women.

Spend a few minutes to scratch the surface, though, and his keen intellect becomes obvious.

Sef speaks calmly, slowly and clearly, thinking through his words as he delivers them.

He looks you directly in the eye when he speaks and constructs each sentence in his mind to make his point.

When I first met Sef Gonzales in March, the university law student was in a state of limbo.

He had lost his family—lawyer father Teddy, mother Loiva and sister Clodine, the previous July, all three slaughtered one night in their North Ryde home.

He knew that police suspected him of committing the murder, yet had not charged him.

Over an omelette at a café in Chatswood Chase shopping center, Sef spoke about the pain of losing his family, saying he had cried himself out of tears.

He also spoke candidly about being nominated as a suspect by police, in an off-the-record conversation.

SEF/A19

COURT APPEARANCE: Young suspect Sef Gonzales, 21, is led into court by policemen Friday following his arrest for the massacre of his family. AP

Cops may have airtight case but Pinoy has good lawyer

By Norman Bordadora
Vincent Cabreza, *PDI N. Luzon Bureau*

SYDNEY police may have an airtight case against the sole survivor of and principal suspect in the massacre last year of a Filipino immigrant family in Australia.

Philippine Consul General Libran Cabactulan yesterday told the INQUIRER that while Sydney police were keeping their cards close to their chest, "they have plugged all the holes in the case" against Sef Gonzales, 21.

COPS/A19

No Cabinet revamp; 'other' Alvarez stays

By Carlito Pablo

THE "OTHER Alvarez" will remain in the Cabinet and there will be no further changes, at least for now.

"No revamp," said Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo whose presence in Malacañang yesterday was something of a surprise as he was supposed to have been on leave following his double bypass surgery last month.

Romulo said Environment Secretary Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez would remain at his post and did not need to follow the example of erstwhile Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez who resigned on June 10.

The appointments of the two had been repeatedly passed over by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Romulo said he saw no need for the environment secretary to step down as Malacañang had been assured by legislators from both houses of Congress that he would soon be confirmed.

Apart from the Cabinet changes announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo and acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable on Thursday, he was not aware of any more planned changes, said Romulo.

Afable announced on Thursday that outgoing Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza

NO/A6

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Second FRONT PAGE

SIGE KAYO, ISANG BOMBA LANG YAN!

Pandacan oil depot staying put

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday the Big Three oil companies are working to "phase down" their depots in Pandacan, Manila instead of relocating them.

In an interview, Perez said the Big Three—Petron, Shell and Caltex—have agreed to turn their phase-down proposal into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Energy and the Manila city government. ***(See related story in Metro section)***

The energy chief noted that relocating the oil terminal would result in the significant disruption of oil supplies to Metro Manila and possibly jack up fuel prices.

To "phase down" means the oil depots will remain in crowded Pandacan although their area of coverage would be reduced. A green or buffer zone will also be thrown up around the depot to protect the surrounding crowded Pandacan community.

"This is an attempt to achieve a win-win solution for all parties concerned, especially since the business permits of the oil firms will expire at the end of the month," Perez said.

He said he expects the three oil companies to present a memorandum of understanding to the Manila city council next week.

Perez said the new limited depot area should be acceptable to the city government. He added the area is practical from an engineering viewpoint.

The energy chief, in an earlier statement, noted that the Pandacan oil terminal supplies almost 90 percent of the fuel needs of Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

He said permanently closing the terminal would cut fuel supplies by as much as 40 percent and possibly trigger an oil shortage.

"The cost of premature closure would be passed on to the consumers through an increase in oil prices," Perez said.

He said that moving the depot now would also increase traffic congestion.

According to a DOE study, sourcing the region's oil supply from outlying terminals would mean the use of more tanker-trucks.

With the pipeline currently in place between the Pandacan depot and the oil refineries in Batangas, only 800 trucks are needed to distribute the oil products around the region.

If the Pandacan depots were shut down, daily truck traffic between Metro Manila, Batangas and the nearby provinces would increase by 50 percent to 1,200 tankers, Perez said.

Residents of Manila, particularly Pandacan, have been clamoring for years to have the depot in their midst transferred, citing the ever-present threats of fire and explosion.

With the worldwide terrorist threat since Sept. 11, 2001, calls for the transfer of the terminal had increased.

MNLF leader won't be swayed from war declaration on gov't

By Edwin O. Fernandez,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Top leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front said they have been trying to convince Commander Basco Tutin to withdraw his declaration of war on the government.

But Tutin said there would be no retraction, while two other MNLF leaders said they might even join Tutin if efforts to convince him to reconsider fail.

On Thursday, Tutin, chair of the Western Cotabato State Revolutionary Committee, announced that he was turning his back on the 1996 peace agreement that ended the MNLF's more than two-decade-long war with the government.

He was moved to do so, he said, after a three-way clash between government troops, MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighters in Datu Piang, Maguindanao last Wednesday in which at least nine of his men and two soldiers were killed.

Tutin blamed the deaths on "military atrocities."

Army Spokesperson Melchor Rosales told a press briefing yesterday that tensions have subsided after the MNLF and the military withdrew their forces and Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza went to see Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, who is also the MNLF secretary general.

"Agreements were undertaken to try and negotiate a solution to this situation," Rosales said.

MNLF leaders believe, however, that the Tutin case is a complicated matter.

As state chairman, Tutin holds the rank of brigadier general in the MNLF forces and commands up to 2,000 armed followers.

Moreover, Tutin is a respected figure even among followers of the MILF, the main Muslim separatist group.

"We are trying to reach him. But if we cannot convince him, then we might as well join him," said Commander Alano Bansawan of the MNLF's Central Cotabato State Revolutionary Command.

Alwadin Habib, chair of the MNLF's National Security Command (Nascom) said it would be hard to convince Tutin to reconsider and has urged his men to "prepare for any eventuality."

In a letter sent to radio station dxMS here on Thursday, Tutin said he and his men were abandoning the 1996 agreement to "continue the armed struggle of our people because the government will never give us a chance to live a peaceful existence."

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said government troops were forced to intervene to pacify Tutin's men who had been fighting with another armed group, believed to be MILF rebels, since Tuesday.

A three-way clash ensued, which also wounded five soldiers.

Sema said he could not understand why the military had to use heavy firepower. ***With a report from Martin Marfil***

PPA-like charge in water bills coming, solon warns

By G. Lacuarta

MILITANT and consumer groups have warned that Metro Manila's two water concessionaires are about to spring a new formula for computing water charges on consumers that would be no different from the controversial purchase power adjustment (PPA) charge tacked on to their electricity bills.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Maynilad Water Services Co. and the Manila Water Co. are seeking rate increases of P4.21 to P6 per cubic meter which are to be charged in the form of a new account to be called the special transitory mechanism (STM).

In their proposal to the regulatory Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Maynilad and Manila Water want their "losses," beyond the approved extraordinary price adjustment (EPA) and payment of millions of dollars of loans contracted by them, to be charged to the STM.

"The STM is like the PPA, and like the PPA, the STM should be opposed," Beltran said.

With this new system, Maynilad and Manila Water can arbitrarily increase their rates, even on a monthly basis, and consumers would have no choice but to shoulder the increases, he said.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) held a protest rally yesterday in front of the MWSS office in Balara to oppose the petitions of the water concessionaires.

Beltran said that "under no circumstances" should the MWSS approve the petitions.

"These companies have no right to demand another rate increase when they implemented the last one only recently. The MWSS should not collude with these firms in their campaign of greed," he said.

Beltran urged consumers to oppose the STM as they have the PPA.

"The STM and the PPA stem from the same vein of greed. Both are anomalous and immoral, and they are impositions against consumers that can never be justified. If Maynilad and the Manila Water want to improve their systems, infrastructure and facilities, they should do so without making the public bear the expense," he said.

Beltran lamented that the MWSS has been powerless to control or even sanction Maynilad and Manila Water.

He said that since the privatization of water services in 1997 the firms have been "having a field day increasing their rates at the slightest excuse."

"Now they have sought to come up with a new rate computation formula that will all but guarantee their high profits," he said.

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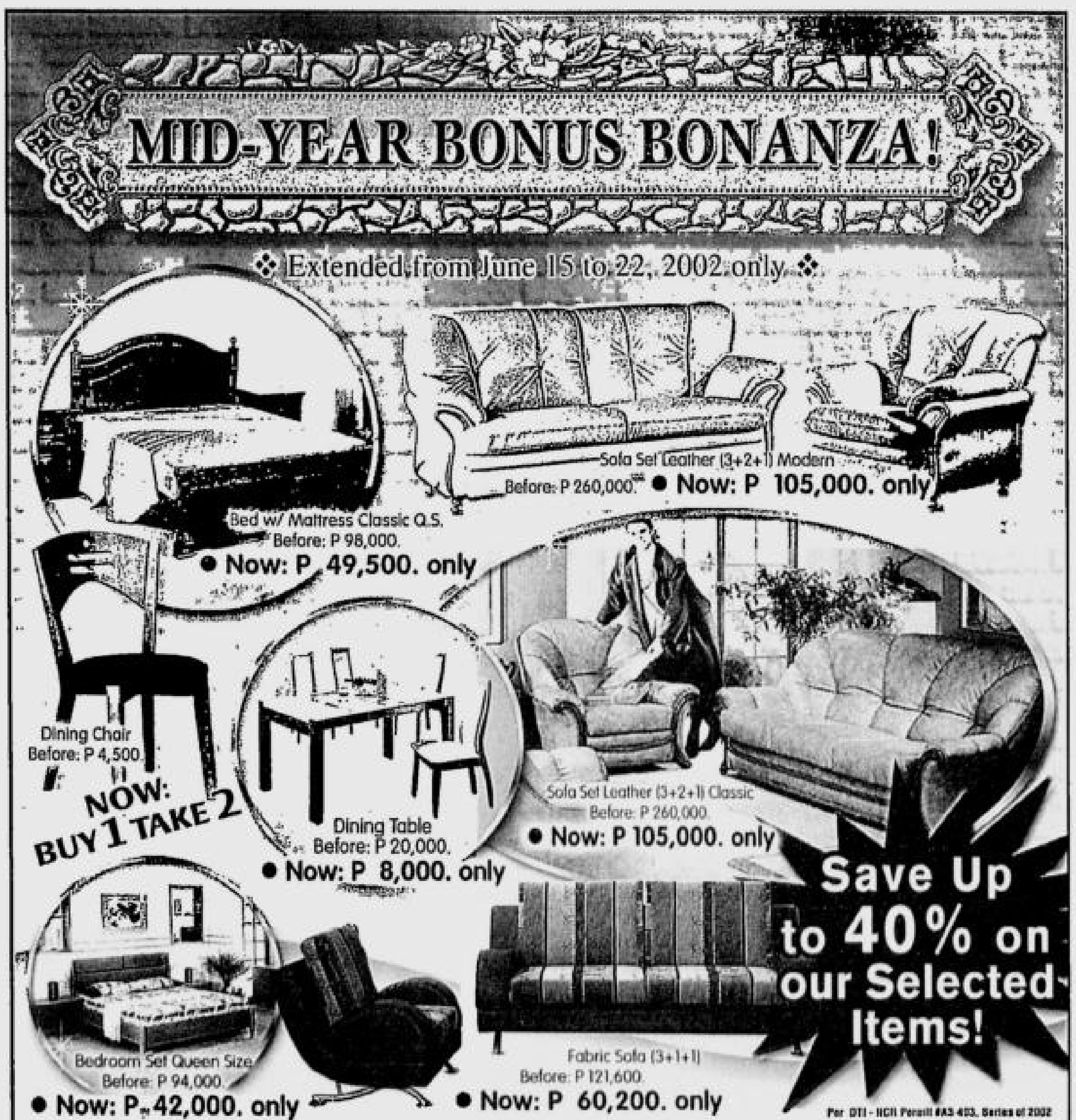

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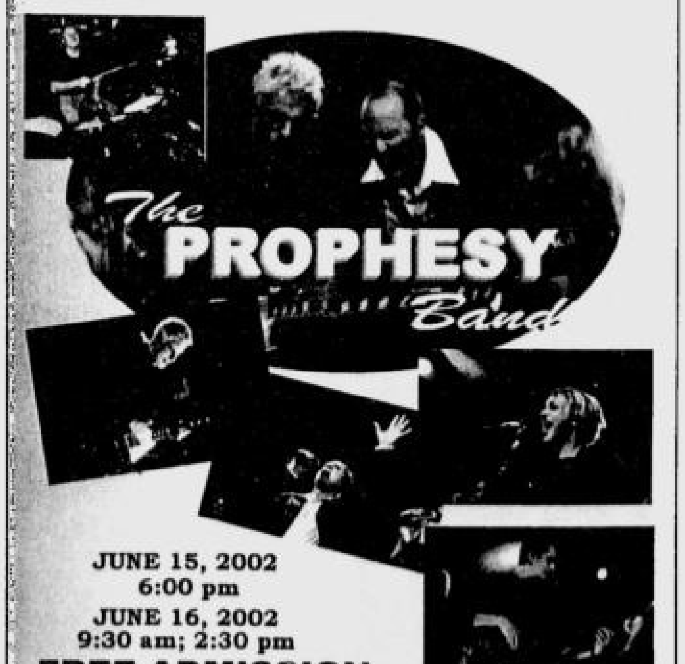

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4 hospitals churning out toxic ash–Greenpeace

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

AT LEAST four government hospitals being run by the Department of Health may be turning out toxic ash as it burns its medical waste by incineration, the environmentalist Greenpeace International said yesterday.

Francis de la Cruz, Greenpeace toxics campaigner, said analysis of ash samples taken from the East Avenue Medical Center, the National Orthopedic Center, the Regional Institute of Tropical Medicine and the Batangas Regional Hospital showed high concentrations of toxic metals.

The metals were identified as chromium, cadmium and lead. The ash samples were analyzed at the Ateneo de Manila University-based Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

"Ash residue from the incineration of hospital waste in other countries is characterized as hazardous waste requiring special treatment due to the concentration of heavy metals and organic pollutants," De la Cruz said at a news conference.

The worst part locally, according to De la Cruz, is the incinerator ash is hauled off by contractors together with municipal solid wastes for disposal in landfills or dumpsites.

"The DOH is wantonly dispensing a deadly cure by burning medical waste in hospitals," De la Cruz said.

"It is ironic the DOH, which is supposed to look after our well-being, has become a threat to health due to its continuing reliance on the deadly practice of incinerating waste," he said.

The sample taken from the EAMC was found to contain 16 to 45 times more lead than found in background concentrations of soil. Mercury was detected in the same sample at mid-range in background levels.

De la Cruz said the toxic metals found in the ash samples were toxic and persist in the environment.

Lead, considered a potent neurotoxin, affects the human nervous system, reproductive system and behavior. Mercury, on the other hand, is extremely toxic and is capable of bio-magnification by progressively accumulating in the food chain.

Chromium has been linked to liver, kidney and respiratory damage as well as lung cancer. De la Cruz said there is also strong evidence that, in humans and animals, the kidney is the key target organ of cadmium toxicity.

'I never resigned'—Sto. Tomas

NO matter that her relationship with other labor officials has been perceived to be less than remarkable, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said she "never" resigned from her post, contrary to rumors, nor was she likely to do so now.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) chief made this clear in an overseas telephone conversation with Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, designated acting labor secretary while she is out of the country.

Sto. Tomas had earlier dismissed the speculations. In a recent phone interview with the INQUIRER, she said, "I have not resigned. I have never tried to resign, not now, not once, either orally or in written form."

While she did not name names, Sto. Tomas said her detractors were probably behind the rumor. "Who (else) would benefit from my resignation?" ***Blanche S. Rivera***

Missing pastor was slain

TARRAGONA, Davao Oriental—The Baptist pastor who has been missing since the height of the government's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2000 has been dead for some time, a ranking police officer said yesterday.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, police provincial director, said word has reached him that Pastor Balugo Cartajena, 49, was executed by MILF rebels shortly after they abducted him from the Missionary Baptist Church in Barangay Ombao here.

Barangay Ombao saw some of the heaviest fighting between government troops and MILF insurgents in 2000. The village was the site of the sprawling rebel Camp Salahuddin I.

"Pastor Cartajena was killed by MILF rebels on suspicion that he was spying for the military," Cuy said. He did not say exactly when and where Cartajena was slain. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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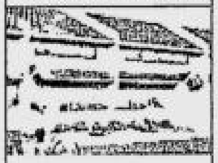

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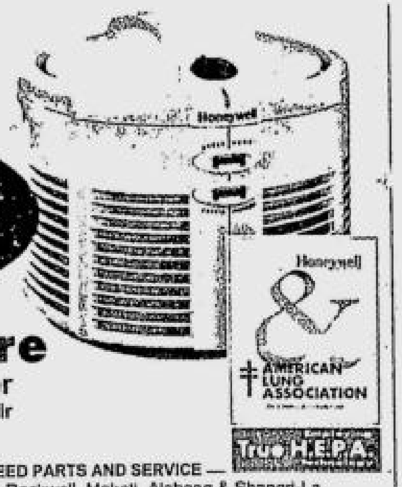

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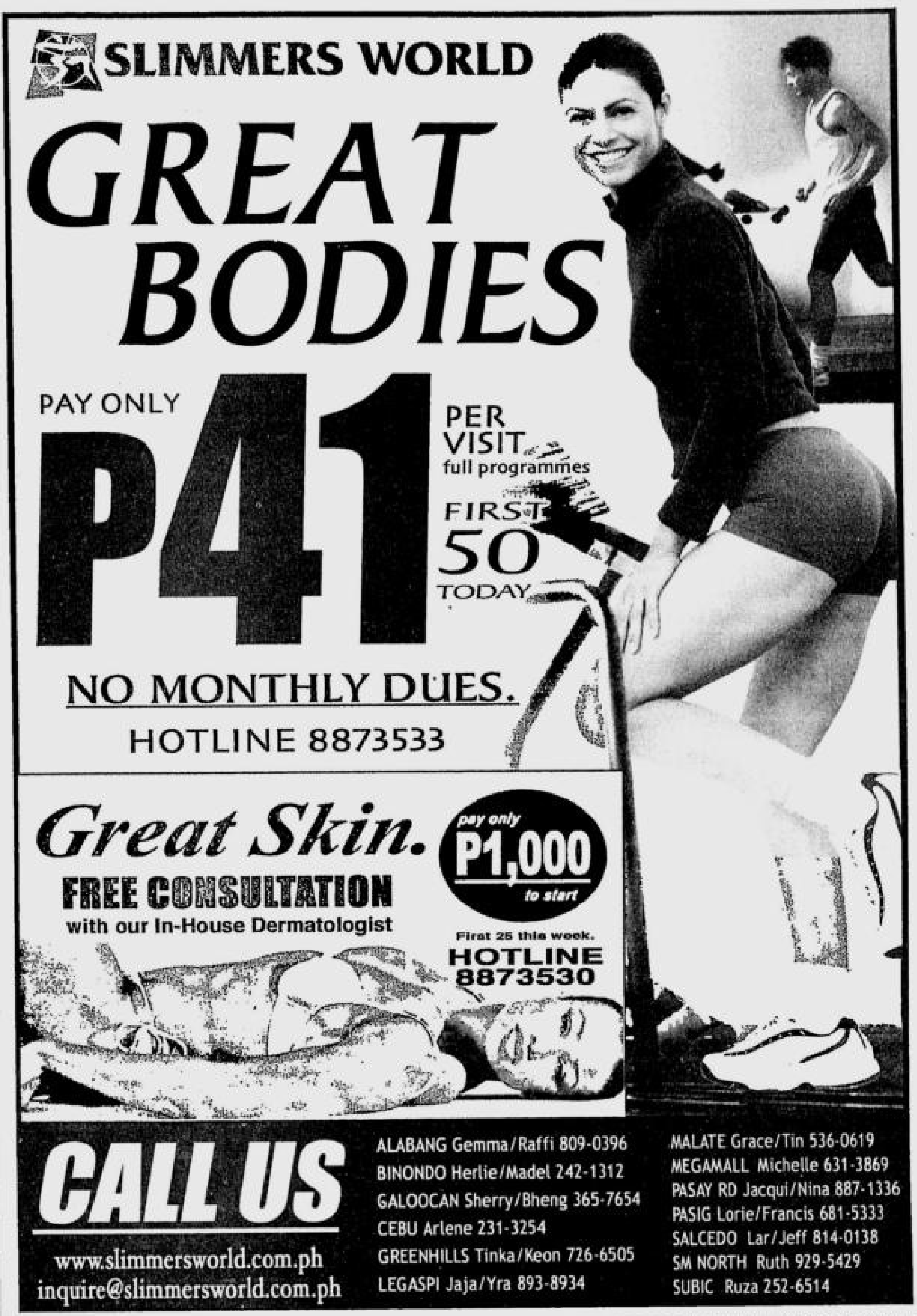

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Loren jumps ship, now recognizes 'new majority'

LEGARDA

BARBERS

FLAVIER

From page A1

That gesture might have sent Legarda rethinking her position in the Senate standoff.

"I don't think we should limit ourselves to our own parties. We should learn to interrelate with other parties because we have so much to do (in the Senate)," she said.

Saving the ship

Legarda is now proposing the creation of a "working coalition" in the Senate which would have members of the opposition and administration converging on a common ground and working out the Senate impasse among themselves.

"You don't have to jump ship (to resolve the problem). You can work together to save the ship. We can all work things out," Legarda said.

She said the "majority would be a new group . . . of both administration and opposition senators."

"It's worth exploring," she added.

Legarda said that while the proposal for the creation of a new majority in the Senate through a "working coalition" was already an accepted solution to the Senate crisis, "the mechanics to make it work have not yet been crafted."

"Positions in the chamber or choosing chairpersons for committees is not important now. My priority is to solve the impasse," she said.

Legarda noted that members of the opposition have always been accommodating to her.

"Take (Sen. Aquilino) Pimentel, for example. He always comes to my defense," she said.

In a separate interview, Angara welcomed Legarda's proposal to forge a "working coalition" in the Senate.

"This would put the Senate back into the mainstream of development," he said.

Angara said he did not go to Antique uninvited, pointing out that Perez was his executive assistant when he was University of the Philippines president and during his first term as senator.

He also explained that he was merely appealing to the emotions of Antiqueños when he called Legarda "the next President or Vice President in 2004."

"It's only natural because she is an Antiqueña. So I referred to her (as such) because she is the favorite daughter of the province," Angara said.

'Do a Flavier'

In a statement, Pimentel urged administration senators to "do a Flavier," referring to the latter's admission on Thursday that there was now a new Senate majority.

"We are thankful that Senator Flavier has seen the light by recognizing the legality and propriety of the action taken by the new majority," he said.

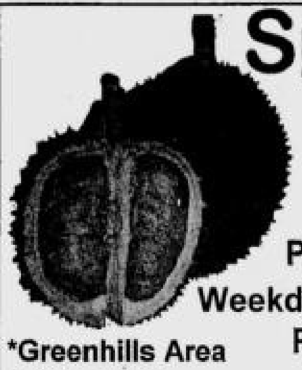
Flavier had earlier said that he was ready to turn over the chairmanship of the Senate health committee to Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito because he was acknowledging that there was now a new majority.

Yesterday, Senator Barbers likewise admitted that there now exists a new majority.

"They have 12 members against 11, yes. We recognize that," he said.

But "the question is still the (manner) of the takeover, (whether it was) legal or valid," Barbers was quick to add.

"They should have waited for the resumption (of the regular session) to declare that they are the majority," he said.



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Next on Fergie: Problem in-laws

From page A1

now that former British royal Sarah Ferguson has signed a deal to host a syndicated talk show.

The show, to be called "Fergie"—as she is known by the British tabloids—is being developed for the 2003-2004 season, said syndicator Universal Television Enterprises, a unit of Vivendi Universal SA.

"I enjoy being with people, so I'll feel in my element with a daily talk show," Ferguson, 42, was quoted as saying in Universal's statement.

"I am constantly inspired by the many people I meet, and I'd like to be part of an exciting television program that celebrates life and the human spirit." **Reuters**

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'NBI quick on Ping, but slow for Nida,' kin says

By Philip Tubeza

IF THE National Bureau of Investigation could be so quick in pinning down Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, why couldn't it do the same in the murder case of actress Nida Blanca?

This was the question thrown out by Kay Torres, Blanca's daughter, during a visit to the NBI on Tuesday, a bureau source who asked for anonymity said.

"If the bureau was so quick in digging up information on Lacson, I don't know why it is so slow in solving my mother's murder," the source quoted Torres as saying.

Torres reportedly made the comment after she and her lawyer, Harriet Demetriou, were briefed on developments in the seven-month-old case.

Another NBI official said the bureau might finally be on the verge of solving the case after a new witness has surfaced.

He said an initial review showed the witness is credible. He said the bureau is preparing to arrest the person the witness has named in Blanca's killing.

The actress was found dead in her car at the Atlanta Center Building in San Juan last November. She had been stabbed 13 times in the head and neck.

The NBI took over the murder investigation after the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group bungled the case.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco has admitted the case was a tough one to crack.

The NBI, however, came out last week with the results on its probe of Lacson's alleged bank deposits overseas.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation had confirmed to the NBI the existence of at least four bank accounts in America belonging to Lacson, national police chief in the Estrada administration, and his wife, Alice, contrary to the senator's claims they had no overseas bank accounts.

The Lacson investigation took about a year.

Quezon priest cleared of murder, sex raps

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR six months, Msgr. Candido Umali, 61, had been saying mass only for the nuns at a convent in Tayabas, Quezon.

While this may look like punishment, the church said yesterday this was only to ensure an impartial investigation into the homosexuality and murder charges filed against Umali last December.

Now that he's been cleared of the charges, Umali "remains a priest of the Diocese of Gumaca, with all the rights, faculties and privileges of a member of the clergy," said Msgr Wilfredo Andrey, spokesperson for the diocese where Umali was assigned.

Umali was linked to the killing of 16-year-old Salvador de la Fuente, who was found strangled in bed on Dec. 23, 2001, in the Gumaca church.

Altar boy Alvin Dequito told police that he saw Umali and church cook Ireneo de Jesus talking to the victim on the night of the murder.

Police cleared Umali of the killing, but charged Dequito and De Jesus instead. The case is now before the Gumaca Municipal Trial Court.

Dequito and a 19-year-old farmer also accused Umali of forcing them to have oral sex with him several times.

Andrey said no formal complaint was brought against the priest, and so "these rumors about his sexual preference will remain just stories."

Reward for Abu, but not for Cardeño?

By Alcuin Papa

THE PARENTS of murdered Young Officers Union spokesperson Capt. Baron Cervantes asked the government yesterday to offer a reward for the arrest of the prime suspect in the case, Supt. Rafael Cardeño.

"My son's death should be the concern of every peace-loving citizen. There should be action from the government," said Rac Cervantes, Baron's father.

Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, said that "if a reward could be offered for the capture of the Abu Sayyaf, the government could also offer a reward for the arrest of Cardeño."

"We need to speed up his arrest," Jimenez said.

Cardeño was named by several witnesses as the mastermind behind the shooting to death of Cervantes in Las Piñas City last New Year's Eve.

Lawyer Leonard de Vera, chair of the Equal Justice for All Movement, lamented the slow pace of the Cervantes case.

"We are afraid Cardeño may have left the country by now. We appeal to the police to intensify the search for him," De Vera said.

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Commentary

"Say yes when you mean yes and say no when you mean no." With the radio and the TV, with so many newspapers and magazines, with election campaigns and many occasional speeches and the casual talk of office mates, the weight of the human word has been lost. The truth and seriousness of the human word have disappeared from the horizon of interpersonal relationships. We need written documents and oaths in our courts and in any ordinary business transactions. We have to rediscover the treasure of human word. It was meant for communication and love but it has become instrument of misunderstanding and mistrust. We must risk to trust in others' words and not allow ourselves to change our given word. Once we value our human word, we will be closer to the Word of God.

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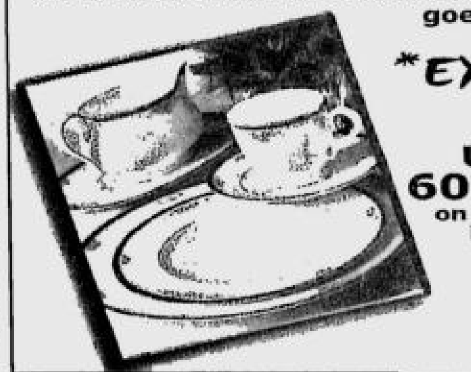

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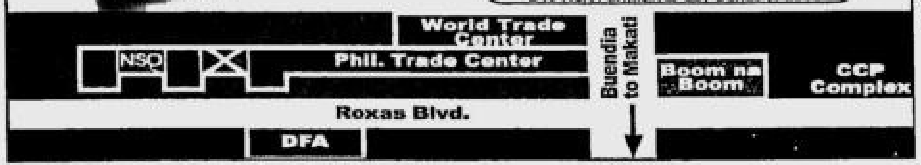

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US bishops apologize for pedophile priests

From page A1

"In my own name and in the name of all the bishops, I express the most profound apology to each of you who have suffered sexual abuse by a priest or another official of the Church," he said, in remarks that were the most contrite so far from top-ranking members of the Church's hierarchy.

"I am deeply and will be forever sorry for the harm you have suffered. We ask your forgiveness."

Gregory, the first African-American ever to head the Catholic organization, continued with the admission that "we are the ones, whether through ignorance or lack of vigilance, or—God forbid—with knowledge, who allowed priest abusers to remain in the ministry and reassigned them to communities where they continued to abuse."

Avowing that "the failures of the past must not be repeated," Gregory stressed the overwhelming responsibility of the US clergy for the "months, and years, and decades of tremendous suffering and pain, especially for the victim-survivors and their families."

The Dallas conference, he said, was a chance to "put into place policies that will insure the full protection of our children and young people and to bring an end to sexual abuse in the Church."

On Friday, the conference was to adopt a charter of conduct to respond to any future sexual abuse committed by a member of the Catholic clergy.

Any future incidents of abuse will result in the immediate removal of accused priests and the involvement of authorities in investigations of sexual abuse claims, according to the charter.

But also included in the draft is a controversial clause that would allow a priest who has knowingly committed one sexual abuse in the past to remain a clergy member, if he submits to appropriate treatment or if he is not diagnosed as a pedophile.

Under pressure from victims' advocates and organizations demanding reform of the Church, a number of bishops are pressing for a blanket "zero tolerance" policy that would remove any and all clergy members with past, present or future abuse charges levied against them.

"We need to be consistent," said Bishop Joseph Galante of Dallas. "If bishops say priests who abuse children in the future are out, why wouldn't they say that for those who abused children in the past?"

Following Gregory's opening address, four adults who were abused by their priests in their youth were invited to speak to the assembled clergy, cutting a striking figure among the somber assembly of black-robed bishops in a moment of communal catharsis.

Frequently on the brink of tears, they pleaded with the religious leaders to act, and act quickly, to ensure that what happened to them was never repeated.

"I have remained a faithful Catholic woman," said Paula Gonzalez Rohrbacker, a married mother of two who traveled from Juneau, Alaska, to attend the conference to speak of the abuse she suffered as an adolescent at the hands of her family priest.

"I urge you to adopt a zero-tolerance policy. It will send a message to all the victims that we are your primary concern." *AFP*

No Cabinet revamp; 'other' Alvarez stays

From page A1

would take over from Pantaleon Alvarez whose confirmation had been snagged by questions about a controversial contract for the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

Fernando and Abalos took their oaths yesterday in Malacañang.

But it is not known when Mendoza would take over the Department of Transportation and Communication as Malacañang has yet to release his appointment papers.

The PNP has reportedly scheduled command turnover ceremonies on July 3 for Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane who is to replace Mendoza.

A ranking CA member and administration legislator yesterday urged Ms Macapagal to recall Mendoza's appointment to the transportation department.

"Mendoza is not only unfit but totally bereft of any professional and technical experience, training and expertise to handle a highly technology-based portfolio like the DOTC," said Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. in a press statement.

Also on Thursday, the President announced the appointment of former Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando as chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority to replace Benjamin Abalos, who was earlier appointed chair of the fractious Commission on Elections.

Abalos replaced Alfredo Benipayo who also went through a bruising time at the CA which apparently blamed him for his failure to whip recalcitrant commissioners into line.

ALVAREZ: Staying, for now.

Pantaleon Alvarez's resignation has sparked speculations that more Cabinet changes are in the offing.

Even Romulo, who will turn 70 in August, has not been spared, with talk going around that he would be replaced.

"That's up to the President," Romulo said. "I've always said that we serve at the pleasure of the President."

Ms Macapagal earlier designated Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino "Nonong" Cruz as acting Executive Secretary.

Romulo said he was "pacing" himself but "raring to go and assume my duties again on July 1."

"The doctor said I need a full recovery but in the meantime I come here occasionally such as today. Yesterday (Thursday) I was also here so I'm pacing myself," Romulo said.

Romulo also quashed talks that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas was on the way out.

"I think she is doing a great job and she happens to be the president of the International Labor Organization," he said.

He said that Sto. Tomas would be leaving for Geneva soon to attend the annual meeting of the ILO "so I don't think we should put anything more to that."

But Alvarez's resignation as transportation secretary will not mean his troubles with congressional inquisitors in connection with the vexed Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) contract are over.

Opposition Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, a member of the House committee on good government, said he would propose that the committee continue with the probe into the contract that had been the main stumbling block to Alvarez's confirmation.

Dilangalen said the committee would summon Gloria Tan Climaco, the presidential adviser for strategic projects who had reviewed the Piatco contract and who had been asked to testify regarding her findings at Alvarez's confirmation hearings.

Climaco, who had raised some questions on the Piatco contract, may be called to testify when Congress reopens its session on July 22.

The presidential adviser was able to dodge an earlier CA summons because she was in the United States to attend to a sick relative.

Climaco, who reviewed the contract on the orders of the President, had proposed 28 changes in its provisions, including the renegotiation of the $20 terminal fee, which is double the current fee.

Dilangalen said he found Climaco's proposals to be "very valid" as these tended to show that the Piatco contract was allegedly "onerous" and disadvantageous to the government.

Actually, the committee is not exactly controversy-free on the issue either, having come up with two committee reports on the Piatco probe.

Committee chair Rep. Ruy Lopez was said to have approved a draft report clearing Piatco while Rep. Salacnib Baterina, committee vice chair, had prepared an alternative report questioning the contract.

Mindanao political leaders yesterday expressed disappointment over Alvarez's resignation, saying they considered it a "great setback for Mindanao constituents."

In a press statement, the leaders praised Alvarez for his "personal sacrifice" and deplored the "relentless black propaganda, calumnies, dirty tricks and false testimonies" that drove him to resign.

They said they had hoped his replacement could have come from Mindanao so the region's development "would not again be sacrificed to narrow sectional interests." ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

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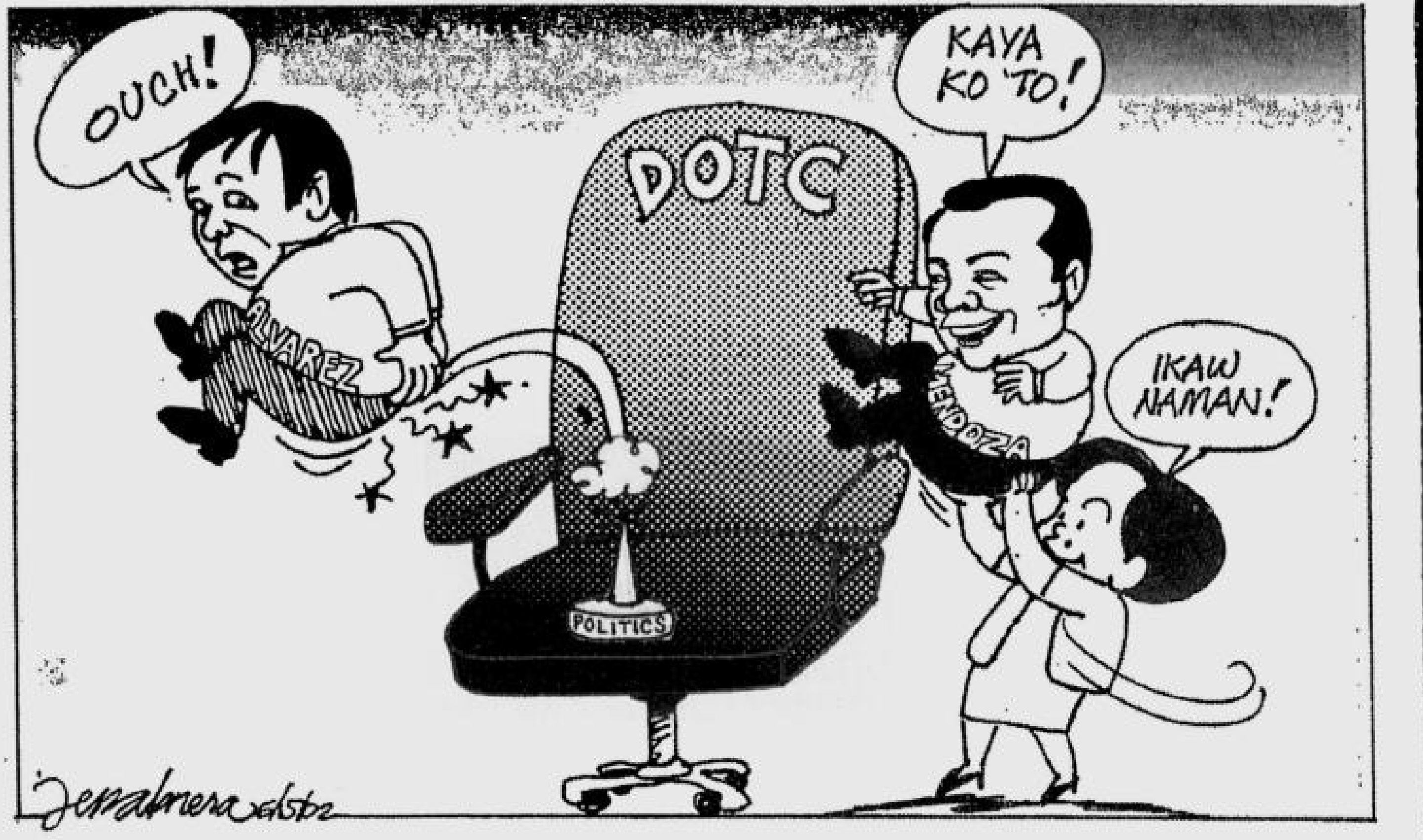

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Mendoza's reward

EDITORIAL

THE RESIGNATION of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez marks the second revamp in the Cabinet. The first was triggered by the resignation of Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, who quit for health reasons. In that shuffle, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo replaced De Villa as executive secretary; Energy Secretary Isidro Camacho took over as finance secretary; and Vicente Perez was named to head the Department of Energy.

The second reshuffle, however, was prompted by more controversial circumstances. Alvarez quit after the Commission on Appointments had bypassed his appointment four times. Alvarez had been under fire for the contract awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to build Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The contract is now being renegotiated after a presidential oversight body pointed out several provisions disadvantageous to the government and the public. Alvarez exited under a cloud. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo changed him after it became obvious that the controversy over the Piatco contract—in which the issue of conflict of interest was raised—was embarrassing her presidency.

Whether or not the change is for the better is a good question to ask. The credentials of Alvarez's replacement, Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza, are being questioned. He has none of the expertise basically required of a transportation and communication secretary. This post requires technical qualifications: Mendoza's specialization is concentrated on police work, although his stint as PNP chief for the past year and a half has not been distinguished in terms of effective law enforcement. If Mendoza conceives of his new job as a continuation of his police work, he can at least make the land transportation agencies more effective in easing the chaos on the streets.

Mendoza's appointment appears like a political reward. He switched loyalty to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ahead of the fall of President Joseph Estrada. Mendoza staged a mini-coup on the national police chief, Panfilo Lacson, at Camp Crame and led the PNP's defection from Estrada.

By shifting Mendoza to the Cabinet, Ms Macapagal also made the PNP happy. Deputy Director General Hermoneges Ebdane gets an early promotion to PNP chief. The President had earlier deferred the retirement of Mendoza last March for six months. Ahead of Ebdane is a term lasting up to 2004. This gives him the opportunity to depoliticize the PNP in the face of the 2004 presidential elections. What the nation needs is not a police chief who is subservient to the political interests of the President but one who will turn the PNP into a non-partisan force which can keep the elections fair and free. Ebdane is backed by strong service credentials, is well-regarded and respected, and enjoys wide confidence in both the PNP and the Armed Forces.

The consolidation of her support inside the PNP apparently played a big part in the President's decision. During the unrest inside the PNP and the Armed Forces at the time of Estrada, Ebdane's links with the strategic units of the AFP helped ensure the switch of loyalty to Ms Macapagal.

This new round of Cabinet changes shows the President trying to buy peace and keep the Piatco controversy from scorching Malacañang. The appointment of Benjamin Abalos as Comelec chair was intended to win the cooperation of the four commissioners, led by Luzviminda Tancangco, who had systematically undermined the decisions of Chair Alfredo Benipayo. Ms Macapagal sacrificed Benipayo in an effort to break the deadlock in the Comelec that developed because of the obstructionist position taken by the majority of four who were all appointed by Estrada.

Reconstituted, the Cabinet is no stronger than it was before the new reshuffle. In fact, the President herself has complained about a number of "non-performing" Cabinet members. She can always rid it of deadwoods through more sweeping changes.

Impressions

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I READ Conrado de Quiros' column last Thursday and couldn't agree more with his nationalistic views on the study of history. I wish I could have written it myself except that his excellent writing style is way beyond my meager skills and possibly those of all others. Conrad writes with a knowledgeable but readable flair definitely all his own.

As a student during the American regime, I learned more about the history of the United States than our own. We were taught more about Washington and Lincoln than the Philippine Revolution that made us free, only to be grabbed again by another colonizer. What I knew later about our own heroes was the result of my own private readings, this time no longer distorted by foreign influence.

I agree with Secretary Raul Roco's plan to emphasize the study of our own history to deepen appreciation of our past and our sense of national identity. This was discouraged by the Spaniards and the Americans for their own purposes, which need not hamper our present search for the beginnings and progress of our race. There is no reason now why this effort cannot be achieved in the objective spirit of inquiry, purposeful judgment and national pride.

That said, let me turn next to another matter less optimistic but no less demanding. I refer to the disturbing report that the criminal case against Arturo Pacificador for the murder of Evelio Javier in 1984 is now on its *16th* year of indecision. Pacificador, as one of the leaders of the KBL, was practically untouchable during the dictatorship but not anymore. Prosecuted after his surrender in 1995, he has yet to hear his verdict despite the long delay.

Another case still hanging fire is the extradition of Mark Jimenez, President Joseph Estrada's erstwhile financial adviser who is wanted by the US government for a number of crimes collectively punishable with no less than 70 years imprisonment. His surrender was formally requested by the American government way back in 1999. After a year-long legal skirmish in the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice filed Extradition Case No. 01-192061 against Jimenez on March 18, 2001.

It is now more than a year since then, but no judgment is yet in sight. Now out on a P1 million bail bond, Jimenez was elected to the House of Representatives in May 2001 and is now facing an election protest and two *quo warranto* petitions that have yet to be decided by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal. Deadline for its decisions is the end of the current congressional term on June 30, 2004.

The maximum periods fixed by the Constitution for the decision of judicial cases does not effectively provide against dilatory tactics employed by the parties and usually permitted by the courts. The deadlines are to be counted from the time the case is submitted for decision and not while the litigation is in progress. There should be more effective curbs against impermissible gambits that mock the constitutional mandate for the speedy disposition of cases.

I note with sadness the passing of Jose N. Nolledo, a worthy member of the bar and a distinguished professor of law who guided many of his students with his lectures and textbooks on the mystique of our profession. One of the topnotchers in the 1958 bar examinations, he was also a prominent member of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 that framed the present Constitution. I did not know him well, to my regret, but respected him much for his outstanding accomplishments as a teacher and advocate of the law.

Another colleague I should have written about earlier is Ramon A. Gonzales, who passed away last year after a long and outstanding career as an activist lawyer. He was one of the few stalwart members of the Constitutional Convention of 1971 who refused to sign the Constitution of 1973 after the original draft was mangled by the martial law regime. In Gonzales v. Commission on Elections, 21 SCRA 774, he lost by one vote his invocation of freedom of expression against the law limiting political exercises only to election period. In Ynot v. Intermediate Court of Appeals, 148 SCRA 649, he won for his client a unanimous decision on constitutional grounds.

Another *compañero* whose death I mourn was Ezequiel S. Consulta, who was my partner at the Old Laurel Law Offices and my *compadre* as well. He was a superb practitioner and a first-rate writer but, for all that, he was a quiet and unassuming person. He once appeared before the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, where I was a member, and practically demolished the opposing counsel, a new lawyer, but with absolute courtesy and even kindness. It made me proud to be his friend.

Finally, let me savor the welcome news that former Vice President Salvador H. Laurel will be conferred "The Most Outstanding Alumnus Award" by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association at its homecoming today. His exemplary public service as a government official and as a private citizen is well known and deserves the singular honor he will be receiving from his peers. Despite all this, he's humble to a fault. Doy is an eminently likable friend whose thoughtfulness, sincerity and all-round affability make him extra-special in my book. Congratulations!

Midnight changes in Comelec procedures

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

WHAT happened to Alfredo Benipayo, erstwhile Commission on Elections chair, shouldn't have happened to a dog. Kicking him out of a job for no other reason than that he has no political backing (his competence and his integrity are proven, but he has no *padrino*)—and not having even the decency to give him sufficient notice (he had to call to find out)—is the outside of enough.

Moreover, saying that he resigned voluntarily heaps more insult upon the insult and injury he has suffered, and insults our intelligence as well. Too many people in and out of the Comelec were privy to the fact that his replacement's appointment papers had been signed even as Benipayo was kept in the dark. Too many people witnessed his dismay and disappointment when he found out. And the promise of a Supreme Court seat for him merely serves to underline the stupidity of kicking him out of the Comelec. For if the man is good enough for the Supreme Court, surely he should be good enough to be Comelec chair?

The tragedy of it all is that if President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hopes that her move will restore peace and harmony in the Comelec, she may be in for a rude awakening. And if Benipayo's replacement, Benjamin Abalos, thinks that when he assumes the chairmanship, maybe even sooner, the majority and the minority will be one big happy family, he may have another think coming, TV footage of conviviality among them notwithstanding.

Because the four Estrada-appointed Comelec commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Rufino Javier and Ralph Lantion, who have been referred to as the Gang of Four—have been busier than bees this week, going all out to ensure that they will in effect be running the show, no matter who is chair.

Only consider:

Taking advantage of the fact that as of Friday afternoon, June 7, Malacañang had not acted on the reappointments of the Macapagal appointees to the Comelec, the four met "en banc" on Monday morning, June 10, and elected Javier as acting Comelec chair and Sadain as "spokesman."

Electing an acting chair, no matter how temporary the duration, was crucial to their plans, because under current the Comelec Rules of Procedure, it is only the chair that can issue calls for sessions, preside over them, or designate the presiding officer in his absence or disqualification or inhibition. It has also been the long-standing practice that only the chair (or his designated representative) who can promulgate a decision.

Abalos' appointment as chair was announced only hours after the four elected their acting chair, and he in fact met with them that (Monday) night. So one would have thought that common courtesy would dictate that the four would suspend their plans until he formally came on board.

On the contrary, the next morning, another en banc session took place—this time with reappointed Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason—and the four then caused certain key changes in the Rules of Procedure to be approved in principle. These changes would clip the wings of the chair.

These were changes that they had unsuccessfully tried to shove down Benipayo's throat. Benipayo refused to cooperate, and that was one of the reasons they were blocking his confirmation. The short transition period from Benipayo to Abalos, which allowed them to install an acting chair, have given the four the golden opportunity to present Abalos with a fait accompli as his welcome present.

One key change they seem to have successfully effected is that, whereas under the current rules, only the chair, as chief executive officer, can call for en banc sessions, now four commissioners can do it. A second is that, whereas under the current rules, only the chair can promulgate a resolution, now four commissioners can do it.

It doesn't take a genius to get the picture. Imagine a Supreme Court where eight justices (out of 15) can together call for an en banc meeting without the chief justice, and proceed to promulgate rulings or make administrative decisions without him. That, in effect, is what the four have in mind for the Comelec.

That is not all. In the same en banc session, they set the precedent for the commission en banc to approve reimbursements which is now the prerogative of the chair. Per the Administrative Code, the chair is authorized "to direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Commission." They approved expenses incurred last June 2001 by Lantion.

On the agenda for Thursday's en banc session (in effect three sessions in four days for commissioners who set records for absences in en banc sessions) were the requests for reconsideration of Comelec personnel who had been transferred, or terminated by Benipayo for cause and who subsequently filed oppositions to his confirmation. Although they were not able to take this matter up, the fact that it was placed on the agenda proves that they are not only setting precedents for future power plays, they are also exacting petty revenge on Benipayo by reversing his decisions.

But, what can you expect of people who, even before Benipayo came on the scene, had assigned themselves key positions on regional and working committees and then decreed that certain positions would remain with them even when the new chair and the other two commissioners came on board? Such as commissioner-in-charge of 10 out of 15 regions and the committees for election modernization, procurement and printing.

Chairman Abalos, forewarned is forearmed.

A crucial blow for good governance

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME of those who have been trying to block Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments are now saying that with the resignation of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Heherson should do likewise to save the President the embarrassment of having to "defend" him. But it's clear that the cases of the two Alvarezes are not the same. In fact they're worlds apart.

Pantaleon's case involved allegations of conflict of interest and profits for his family in the construction of the Naia Terminal III. Pantaleon's family was involved in the controversy after it was shown that it partly owns Wintrack Builders Corp., one of Piatco's sub-contractors. Whereas, Heherson's problem stems from his valiant stand against vested interests which he has been fighting in the name of good governance.

* * *

Among those opposing Heherson Alvarez are some congressmen from the Southern Luzon bloc, who openly support their colleague, Rep. Plaridel Abaya, whose son Peter Anthony was charged by Alvarez before the Ombudsman for allowing the importation by unlicensed corporations of harmful chemical substances in 2000 when he was director of the Environment Management Bureau. Charging Abaya, who served during the time of President Joseph Estrada, was a move that was politically unwise for Alvarez, but he opted to do it and this has won him plaudits from various NGOs. On the other hand, a handful of Mindanao congressmen opposing him represent interests linked to big Mindanao loggers whose toes Alvarez has also stepped on.

* * *

It was unfortunate that the Senate coup was pulled two days before Heherson Alvarez's scheduled confirmation. This was assured by the chair of the environment committee of the CA, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, and even by opposition Sen. Blas Ople because by then he had already hurdled the opposition of about 20 groups. When his confirmation got sidetracked by the coup, President Macapagal readily reappointed him. It was an indication of her appreciation of the fact that she needs in the DENR someone of Alvarez's stature, who can stand up to big vested interests that seek to exploit the environment for personal gain and who is well-respected by the international community. Alvarez's reappointment was a big blow for good governance.

* * *

I was in Malacañang yesterday afternoon for the annual award giving by the Foundation for Judicial Excellence to judges, prosecutors and public attorneys with proven track records. The award ceremony was followed immediately by the oath-taking of new MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and new Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. And I saw for the first time Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo report for duty after his recent heart by-pass. He looked trimmer and quite fit. Welcome back, Mr. Secretary.

* * *

Fernando needs a lot of luck in his new job, but from indications, the Metro Manila mayors, his former colleagues, are eager to welcome him. I suspect that Abalos needs even more luck, as he now has to deal with the cantankerous Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco. We all hope that his term at the Comelec will produce better results than that of his predecessor, Alfredo Benipayo. I spotted Benipayo at Abalos' oath-taking and I must say that he suddenly looked 10 years younger.

Abalos was quoted as saying that he would try to make both "factions" at the Comelec work through "compromises," and being a politician, he is expected to pull a miracle. But in the first place, "factions" at the Comelec came in only with Tancangco; since the time of Leonardo Perez in the 1960s I cannot recall the poll body being wracked by factionalism as it was in Benipayo's time. Then too, I wonder how far compromises would go. At some point, Abalos will have to confront the hard reality of the "terms of engagement" with Tancangco, then he'll need more than good luck.

* * *

People are now wondering whether the impeachment case against Tancangco, which is being pushed by the most prestigious NGOs in the country and sponsored by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentebella in the House, will still continue. I am happy to note that the NGOs and Puentebella are determined to push through with it, and I hope he will get the 71 votes needed to file it. Some congressmen and local executives are said to be hesitant about supporting the impeachment case as they fear Tancangco could create trouble for them come election time. They must remember that she will be retiring in February 2004, which means that by May 2004 she will be gone, assuming she isn't impeached by then.

* * *

I read the impeachment complaint and I am simply appalled by the litany of sins detailed there as well how she could do those things with impunity. For instance, as chair of the Comelec modernization committee, Tancangco failed to automate the counting of votes in the May 2001 elections in violation of the Election Automation Law of 1997. She also showed an "unjustified bias" for the Voters Registration and Information System (VRIS) project by awarding it to Photokina at the cost of P6.5 billion, even if the Comelec's budget for it was only P1.2 billion. On the other hand, she caused the Comelec to declare a failure of bidding for the Automated Counting and Canvassing of Results System (Accors) because the budget was only P500 million while the bids tendered were clustered around P750 million. Tancangco also conducted the precinct-mapping project that could amount to P500 million, even if these expenses are not authorized by law! RA 8189 only directed the Comelec to seek the assistance of political parties and NGOs in verifying registered voters, and did not contemplate such huge expenses. ***(To be continued)***

Reunion in the rain

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A STORM was brewing over northern Luzon, and there was a contretemps at the bus station, complete with a scene at the ticket counter that would rival any confrontation between Madame Claudia and Miss Amor Powers. Then, just as the "super de luxe" bus was about to leave the terminal, it ground to a halt and the driver scrambled out, muttering something about the engine overheating.

What did all this portend? Fortunately, just a bumpy start to a long trip and a memorable weekend, even if most of it was under overcast skies and driving rain and the vaunted crystal clear and calm waters off Pagudpud had been churned into a roiling mass of foaming waves and angry surf.

Typically, we couldn't just organize a simple trip to Laoag to attend my brother Father Boboy's installation as the 17th president of the Divine Word College of Laoag. After word got around about the event, the visiting party had ballooned to an entire busload of us Manila-based siblings, our children, cousins and our Tito Ramy, who refused to take a plane and insisted on joining us on the 10-hour road trip. My cousin Lulu had also organized a separate, smaller delegation from our hometown of Alaminos.

Leaving Manila at 9 p.m., we rolled into Laoag very early the next morning, alighting from the bus into a drizzle and scrambling to retrieve our belongings before they got soaked. Thus did we make our ungainly entrance to the college, a ragged procession of woozy travelers preceded by a pushcart overflowing with luggage.

But thanks to the efficient staff of the fathers' residence, we had coffee and a native breakfast awaiting us, even as we had to scramble to get ready for the formal rites.

* * *

FOUNDED in 1948, the DWCL has a population of about 3,000, including the high school and elementary departments. It offers two-year as well as four-year undergraduate courses, though it is best known for the quality of its engineering courses, with graduates earning places among the top 10 in national licensure examinations. It also offers post-graduate degrees. Indeed, the college is today seeking elevation to university status, which it hopes to achieve before two years are over, certainly the biggest challenge facing Father Boboy as its new head.

Over the years, we'd heard intermittently about plans to assign Father Boboy to an academic institution, mainly through his own complaints about his superior's attempts to yank him from the missionary life. The Society of the Divine Word, after all, is a missionary order, though a large part of its mission is also providing education to youths in far-flung areas. As a concerned sister, I wholeheartedly approved of this latest assignment, which would at least put him within reach by telephone and text, unlike in previous assignments to mountain parishes where he could be reached only after a day or two's arduous trekking.

When a relative passed away some years ago, for instance, the only way Father Boboy could be told the news was through our cousin Inday Badiday who made a *panawagan* on her popular radio show. And sure enough, the word passed from radio to radio, mouth to mouth, and he made it in time for the funeral.

* * *

OUR family's thanks, then, to the board of trustees of the DWCL, headed by Fr. Gaudencio Pugat, SVD, who also heads the order's Northern Philippines Province, for this honor bestowed on Fr. Boboy. Thanks, as well, to the rest of the administration, the faculty and staff, and of course the students for their wholehearted welcome.

After the Mass and installation rites, there was a short program that included a skit that purported to encapsulate Father Boboy's life, beginning with his seminary days. We his family had a hard time stifling our laughter because the student they chose to portray him bore an uncanny resemblance to the boy we had known.

As a token of our appreciation for the college's hospitality, we turned over a check for a college scholarship for a "poor but deserving" student at the DWCL. True to our nature, we had had long debates about how to administer the scholarship, its name and even what course the scholar should take. We finally decided, given its very humble scope, that we would leave everything up to Father Boboy, since he already administers another scholarship fund set up by our sister Chona, her husband Willy Cruz, and their children.

Judging from the response we received from the teachers and other priests, our simple gesture was much appreciated, so we hope that in time, we could expand the gift to a full-blown scholarship program. Indeed, after this we hope we will now be considered as part of the DWCL family, too.

* * *

FROM THE COLLEGE, our delegation of Jimenezes and Braganzas proceeded to Pagudpud, about an hour-and-half's drive away on the rain-slicked roads from Laoag. Checking in at the Villa del Mar, we all rushed to the beach only to be stymied by the pounding surf that leaped up and over the elevated sand dunes.

We spent the rest of the night regaled by videoke as well as the compulsory sharing of courtship stories, with each couple in the group forced to reveal how their romance developed. I'm sorry to say there were no real scandals unearthed.

The next day, true to my spoken wish for "some sunshine tomorrow," the skies cleared up for a few hours in the morning, but before lunch, the sky again turned gray and soon rain began falling in sheets.

So it was beneath a curtain of rain that we once again left for Laoag, and thence for Manila. Proving, I would like to believe, that nothing will dampen or douse this family's penchant for occasions and reunions.

A ride down the Pasig River (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

IN THE 1870s, the boats that travel from Manila to the province of la Laguna wait in a modest wharf at midnight, on the banks of the Pasig at the foot of the magnificent Puente Colgante (hanging bridge). A small yellow card, greasy from use, is exchanged for quarters at the stern that costs P4. The boat prepares to depart: the whistle blows, the boat disengages from its moorings and, dodging numerous bancas loaded with grass, sets a course against the current to Laguna de Bay.

The oars of the little boat beat heavily against the waters of the Pasig as it makes slow progress, with the oarsmen trying to avoid collision with some of the many small passenger boats that crowd the vicinity of the Puente Colgante at these hours. Some bancas are loaded with coconuts, others with vegetables, kindling wood, stones, bricks and tiles. The *cascos* ferry a great number of vivacious girls who work in the tobacco factory at Arroceros and live in those poetic, small houses that border the banks of the river in the towns that can be seen from the sides of the boat.

With a few strokes of the oars, the prow leaves behind the faded pillars of wood that form the support of the bridge under construction to the isle of Convalecencia. The new bridge will connect the two banks of the Pasig, the principal base being the small isle of Convalecencia where a big building, which we are informed later is a hospital, stands.

Turning the bend that the isle forms, we are able to appreciate the svelte and elegant constructions on Calzada de San Miguel. Improvements in construction are evident in the houses; we see one that is a veritable modern palace built principally of steel. In its gardens, patterned in the English style, are statues in great profusion and through the half-open windows of the walls—such lines reminiscent of Moorish influence—oriental sybaritic touches indiscreetly appear imported from the old world.

Following the same path, we leave behind Malacañang, the residence of the highest official which looks very modest, given the high office that he occupies. The barrio of Nagtajan comes after the official residence of the governor general and the landscape begins to take on a different character. The stone, steel and bricks are substituted by cane, nipa and bamboo; the carefully tended gardens by compact clusters of bananas, *bongas* and bamboo. Summer homes mix with factories of pottery, rope makers and stone quarries.

After enjoying the sights on the riverside, we leave the poetic small town of Pandacan, turning the bend at Las Beatas, so called because there once existed a pious establishment of nuns in that place, and pass the solid church of Sta. Ana with the finial of the Paco temple visible in the distance at the same time.

Behind the foamy wake of the flat-bottomed boat, left behind are the rustic wharfs of Lamayan, the solid church of Mandaluyong over whose top the outline of the mountains of Mariquina are visible, the towns of San Pedro Macati and Guadalupe, the ford at San Pedrillo that connects the barrio by that name with the town and the ruins of San Nicolas, where tradition says an alligator turned into a boulder after a Chinese who was as the point of being devoured invoked the name of the saint.

The sanctuary of Guadalupe is one of the first, if not the first, temple in the Philippines where stone and bricks were utilized. It was constructed by an Augustinian friar, a relative of the immortal Herrera, architect of the Escorial. The builder of this joyful sanctuary boldly conceived and constructed the magnificent San Agustin church in Manila, one of the laurel leaves in the crown of the illustrious name of Herrera.

The town of San Pedro Macati once belonged to the Jesuit order. After the Jesuits were expelled, their lands and hacienda were bought by the Marquis of Villamediana.

Passing the site where the miracle of the alligator occurred, we see the great adobe quarries of Guadalupe that principally provide the needs of Manila and its suburbs. The stones, even if they are very porous and crumble easily, are widely used and transported in large bancas unloaded at the foot of the Puente Colgante or on the banks of the many streams that crowd the Pasig.

At this point, the captain tells everyone on board to move starboard, making us understand the difficulties of turning the bend near the steep rock of Malapadnabato. The beautiful ferns that form tapestries on the narrow passageway in the rock leading to the town of Pateros are truly beautiful, and the naturalist has in those granite walls, precious examples of giant mosses. Almost in front of Malapadnabato is the ford by the same name where a rustic watchtower and the quarters of the riflemen guarding the passage for goods brought to the city through the Pasig is located.

In the vicinity of the watchtower, the entrance to the cave of Doña Geronima stands out. The cave, it is said, is connected to that of San Mateo and the natives tell horror stories of ghosts, dwarfs, but more than anything else, bandits.

(To be continued)

Summer of '99

YOUNGBLOOD

Janice M. Abadilla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THE SUMMER of '99 was the most meaningful summer in my entire life. That was the time when some people changed my perception about hardship and happiness.

No, I did not do volunteer work in a center for special children. Neither did I spend a day in a prison. I just became one of the familiar faces you see inside malls whenever you get hungry: a service crew member.

Around 20 crew members shared my four months of tiresome six-hour duty of running, cooking, shouting "Acknowledge!" losing and gaining money, and putting on a brave smile in front of impatient customers. The crew gave something more than a back rub after our day was done. They changed my life. It was they who removed the blinders from my eyes. They made me see the whole world. They taught me compassion and to see the truth in myself and the truth in others.

I still remember the first time I stepped into the pizza fastfood chain in my brand-new, red-and-green uniform, which reminded me of Christmas even if it was out of season. I did not know what came into my mind when I decided to apply for the job. I wasn't out of money. I was still going to school. Indeed, I didn't even like the food they serve in that restaurant.

But I wanted to kill the time, get over the boredom and escape from the unwanted heat that threatened to make our house burst out in a conflagration. I had no friends living nearby with whom I could while away the time. The truth is, I got fed up with all the shallow display of friendship and back-stabbing among my friends and all the screws in my brain loosened up and I felt an irresistible urge to find new friends while making some money.

Unfortunately, I was not ready for the experience. A decade ago, when my brother joined a similar crew (that was before I could even spell the word), he looked as if he had hit the big-time. He was the popular boy next door who served burgers and fries to movie stars who dropped by the store. Much to my dismay, I got the job when the economic crisis was peaking and the only cheap restaurant around served burgers and fries. Cheap restaurants meant cheap crews, which incidentally made me a cheap worker.

Being from a middle-class family and going to a prestigious school, I was torn between dropping the job or swallowing my pride. I was working with people who probably didn't take a bath before going to work, and I barely keep myself from strangling those who pronounced my name as "Ja-nes" because of their Visayan provenance.

But something unexpected happened. While I was probably more educated than all of them, it was they who taught me a lesson I will remember for the rest of my life. While I looked down on their lack of social graces, they made me feel special in their company. While they knew I was behaving like a princess, they accepted me and took care of me every time I encountered difficulties in my job. I was focused on perfecting the art of preparing pasta and earning a "smile" after I closed my cash box, but there was something infinitely better than being the best among the crew: It was friendship, and I found it among them.

From time to time, they would invite me to their place for a birthday celebration or to simply hang out. Sometimes we would be crammed inside a small shanty in a squatters' area or our eardrums threatened to burst because one of them was singing his lungs out in front of the videoke, but we really enjoyed being together, telling tales and sharing our feelings over softdrinks and Lucky Me noodles (or whatever was available).

Looking at their simple life and their pitiful dwellings and knowing they had to work part-time so they could continue their studies made me realize how lucky I was to belong to a family whose every need was well-provided for. These gatherings made me see deeper into them, and it was amazing how our cheap "trips" or "gimmick" could make us all so very happy. Nobody bragged because nobody had anything to brag about. No one had to be conscious of his image or what others might think of his clothes, his manners and his behavior, because everyone was in the same condition. No one flashed a "plastic" smile because everyone truly enjoyed the things we were doing together. No one felt alone, because everyone had problems of his own to solve and to share. We could say outright that we hated each other, but in the end because of the deep friendship we had developed, we had to admit that we still loved each other.

They were the people who taught me much about reality. I may be able to speak more eloquently than the rest of them, but they were still the better speakers. When they talked sincerity showed in their eyes, as if all the words coming out of their mouth were pulled from their innermost hearts.

That was what I learned from Manny, the homosexual and the most humane person I have ever met. He is what he is. He shows what he feels.

Myrna, my cheerful and uninhibited friend, taught me how to enjoy life and to junk my prejudices and stereotypical notions about men. We sometimes call her *"pokpok,"* not because she is a prostitute but because she acts without hesitation, without feeling constrained by rules or conventions.

Ruby is my reflection. Like me she feels like a princess and wants to grab all the attention. But deep inside her are bottled up fears and a strong thirst for affection. And once she gets what she wants, she does her best and fights to keep it.

Aden is a typical guy who loves chasing girls. He is a sweet brother to me, authoritative but really still a boy at heart.

There are other names I will never forget: Bryan, boyish, playful, but strong-willed; Amanda, a girlish *"maton"* whose life has had many ups and downs; Rhey, shy but charming; Deiane, my trainer; Laarni, always absent-minded; Irene, preggy and kind; Carol, the pain in the ass; Rheza, my trainee who is twice as weird as I am; Ash, the guy who messed up my good mood whenever I was in the kitchen; James, our "daddy"; Ima, sweet and pretty; Vin, silent but weird and full of kindness; Rolly, who hides a strong character behind his smile; Blas, the circus clown; and Paul, the one who opened up and enlightened me after noting that I had almost completely forgotten God.

It has been three years since I saw them shed tears of joy and sadness when I left the store. But up to now, I can never forget the irony of experiencing joy amid poverty, hearing laughter in the face of almost insurmountable problems, and simply being happy to be with friends. They have all been a part of my growth, of my life, and I will bring this joyful memory wherever I go.

Thanks to all of them.

Janice M. Abadilla, 22, finished BA Behavioral Studies at the University of the Philippines, Manila and is now a first year medical student at the University of the East.

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An enviable outpouring of affection

LAST June 5, I watched on CNN and Fox News the coverage of the 50th anniversary celebration of Queen Elizabeth's ascension to the British throne. I saw the spontaneous outpouring of affection, respect and pride of thousands of British subjects for their beloved Queen. The *mise en scène* of thousands of her subjects waving the Union Jack and cheering her name was a stirring spectacle that would fill your heart and bring tears to your eyes.

And I cried. I cried with envy and sadness. For I suddenly realized that we Filipinos have been deprived of any person or institution with the charisma that would move thousands to voluntary and vigorous fervor.

The office of the presidency has been seriously devalued by the greed and abuses of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada. President Manuel Quezon's wish of a "Philippines being run like hell by Filipinos" has been realized.

Congress? A pox on both houses. The recent nauseating antics in the Senate and the House are symptomatic of the greed and opportunism pervasive in both Houses of Congress.

Our local officials are a cabal of voracious clowns.

The bungling and abuses of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation are notorious and taken for granted by the public. Our army has yet to defeat a renegade band of 200 bandits operating on a small island for the past five years.

The general and pervasive indictment of our entire government system is its endemic corruption. The Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption recently concluded that we are powerless to stem and minimize graft and corruption in the bureaucracy. The only thing that it can hope for is the prosecution of the guilty parties. But history has shown this is also impossible in our culture.

In recently praising the ombudsman for his work, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proudly noted that he has "battled a lot of big fish," including an ex-president, two former first ladies, 17 Cabinet members, six congressmen, and 541 local officials. But to date, none of these officials have seen the insides of a jail for graft and corruption.

The only time I can remember that we Filipinos showed a deep, unwavering, committed and truly passionate devotion to a cause was when Ninoy Aquino was shot. The Filipino people truly had a hero then.

—JUN PASIMIO, BF Homes
Parañaque City

Hybrid rice to help modernize agriculture

THIS is in response to the letter last May 16 of Roberto Verzola, secretary general of Philippine Greens, titled "Dangerously flawed strategy on hybrid rice." As the lead implementing agency of the Hybrid Rice Commercialization Program, we would like to answer the points he raised against hybrid rice.

First, Verzola said expensive seeds will mainly benefit seed companies.

Hybrid rice seeds are still expensive owing to limited supply. To solve this, the government is subsidizing the seeds at half the cost. But the subsidy will be phased out gradually as conduct of hybrid rice seed production trainings intensifies. This will ensure the supply of hybrid rice seeds at a competitive cost.

Agricultural modernization requires a vibrant seed industry. It is our goal to develop a local hybrid rice seed industry managed by farmers. Many farmers, particularly in Isabela and Kalinga, trained by PhilRice and the Department of Agriculture have organized themselves and are now successful hybrid rice seed producers. An example is the Roxas Hybrid Rice Seed Growers Multipurpose Cooperative in Isabela, which serves the hybrid seed needs of Luzon and Mindanao.

The unsubsidized cost of P2,400 per bag of hybrid seeds seems expensive, but the current practice is to use two to four bags of inbred (non-hybrid) seeds which cost P1,500 to P3,000.

Verzola also said that the high use of inorganic fertilizers will benefit the agrochemical companies.

The technology calls for the use of 10 to 15 bags of organic fertilizer in seedbed preparation to facilitate pulling of seedlings and minimize root damage. This way, we also hope to develop a local organic fertilizer industry that will sustain this technology.

We advise farmers to use the leaf color chart (LCC) and the minus one element technique which tell them when, what kind and how much fertilizer to apply. Use of the LCC alone results in savings of P1,000 per hectare on nitrogen fertilizer. Soils are also being analyzed so that farmers will apply only the fertilizer needed by the rice plant.

Thirdly, Verzola said that buying new seeds every season will benefit the seed companies.

Farmers have testified that their net income from hybrid rice production can offset the costs of the seeds. We can give the names of several farmers who will attest to this to anyone who is interested.

A growing number of farmer-seed growers are now going into hybrid rice seed production. Very soon, buying new seeds every season will benefit our farmer-seed growers.

Fourthly, it was claimed that the use of very few hybrid rice varieties will result in pest outbreaks.

Aside from the three hybrid rice varieties, two more await approval from the Seed Board, not to mention the varieties from the private sector. We do not intend all rice-producing areas to shift to hybrid rice. Our target is only 60 percent of the irrigated areas by 2004. The Department of Agriculture continues to extensively promote the use of certified inbred rice seeds, of which we have more than 80 varieties.

Finally Verzola said that SRI is a better alternative to hybrid rice technology.

SRI is a crop-management technology, thus, it can be applied to any variety, including hybrids! Owing to the unique advantages of the SRI approach, PhilRice promotes SRI and maintains an SRI demo-farm in Nueva Ecija.

But SRI has certain limitations. Farmers with more than 3,000 square meters of land will find difficulty in using SRI owing to additional labor cost.

PhilRice promotes all rice production technologies and crop-management options. The farmers decide which to adopt depending on their farming conditions, resources or preferences (e.g., good eating quality, high-yield, tolerance to a particular pest, low production cost, etc.).

We are not forcing farmers to go into hybrid rice technology. We are increasing their awareness and appreciation of the technology, and making the technology accessible and available to them. With it, we hope we can instill in the farmers precision or scientific farming, which would help them improvise with whatever technology is introduced to them.

We believe hybrid rice technology can give us not only more rice, but also more jobs, and lead us to a modern Philippine agriculture.

—LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN,
executive director, Philippine
Rice Research Institute
(PhilRice)

OFWs want value for money

IT is no surprise that an ultra-nationalist like Conrado de Quiros would be attracted by the simplistic notion that the solution to the country's economic woes lies in overseas Filipino workers buying Filipino. A "fantastic insight" he gushes, calculating that it would bring P80 billion into the economy. "Factories would boom, jobs would come aplenty, poverty would be eliminated"—all from encouraging *balikbayans* to buy local goods.

There is only one problem with this "fantastic" scenario. In the course of his article, De Quiros mentions only one Filipino product, and that is Jollibee, which has some inherent limitations as a *pasalubong*. Where are these Filipino products that De Quiros wants *balikbayans* to spend $1,000 a year on? The fact is that, unless the peso is further devalued by at least another 25 percent, Filipino goods will remain uncompetitive.

Anyway, what nerve for De Quiros to think he has a right to dictate what hard-working OFWs who slave away in Taiwanese factories or Saudi homes should spend their money on. It is the height of arrogance to describe their buying patterns as manifestations of a "colonial mentality."

OFWs are no different from other consumers; if Filipino products represented good value for money, they would buy them. Unfortunately they don't, so they won't.

—JUN GONZALES, 810
Torres St., Mandaluyong City

Filipinos are proud of what?

I WAS piqued by the article written by Prof. Jose V. Abueva who interpreted it as a "very hopeful sign" that 82 percent of Filipinos felt proud about their nationality.

Such findings hold no greater appeal to me than a convenient check mark on the research questionnaire. No one ponders deeply the details of his daily life "as a Filipino" when faced with such a question with ready-made answers.

Personally, I think it's taboo for us who have been indoctrinated with religious patriotism to even think of being of a different nationality. Yet, hardly anyone of us is "proud" about the density of the air we breathe and the bills we pay, the stench of the overflowing contents of our news and our garbage trucks and of our human development index, which none of our leaders care about. Or perhaps, it's just that I wasn't one of the 1,200 respondents to the survey.

—RICO LEO R. SÁCABEN,
Political Science Department,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Bush team divided over US Mideast policy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jonathan Wright

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration strayed into the gray area between internal debate and public feuding this week, as competing interests angled for the ear of President George W. Bush on his next step in the Middle East.

Bush is preparing to speak, possibly next week, on a US vision for how to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, but analysts say the administration is far from decided on what it should do or even how much effort it should invest in the endeavor.

In the meantime, the president and his team have put out conflicting signals, confusing and dismaying Middle East diplomats who hang on every word they utter on the subject.

Robert Satloff, director of policy at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said it reflected a "growing pattern of White House-State Department division on key Middle East issues, a damaging dynamic that will only be exorcised through clarity and resolution from the Oval Office."

Bush has at least three big decisions to make and each one could have profound implications for the image of the United States in Israel and the Arab and Muslim worlds. Bush's image among key domestic constituencies is also at stake.

The biggest choice is whether to set out detailed proposals for progress toward a Palestinian state. Bush adopted a two-state solution last year but has never said how or when Israel should end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

He also has to decide how far he should press for change in the Palestinian Authority and whether Israel and the United States must deal with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

And, in the near term, the United States has to flesh out its ideas on the aims and arrangements for a Middle East peace conference promised for the summer.

Analysts said on Thursday the internal debate was now heating up, with the administration roughly divided between State Department enthusiasts for engagement on one side, and a loose coalition of defense, intelligence and domestic political advisers urging caution on the other.

The debate appeared to flare into the open on Wednesday after an interview in which Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke positively about a proposal for a provisional Palestinian state to give the Palestinians hope for a better future.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer quickly dismissed the suggestion Bush had endorsed the idea, saying it was just one of the proposals the United States has heard in its recent consultations with Middle East leaders.

Edward Walker, president of the Middle East Institute and a former assistant secretary of state, said Powell may have been floating a trial balloon during an election year, to see how the idea goes down with influential US constituencies.

"It may well be that it's one of the things they discussed...and it hasn't gotten through the political filter, and the political filter is telling the president, 'Be cautious, back away from it until we get a better sense,'" he told Reuters.

But Walker said he tended to agree with the widely held view that the Bush administration does not have a coherent policy.

"There is no doubt there's a problem in the administration. They just don't have their act together," he told Reuters.

"I really think they are still contemplating (what to do about the Middle East). They have not decided," said Shibley Telhami, a Middle East expert at the University of Maryland.

"There's a tug of war between different options—between the professionals in the State Department, who consider a Palestinian state the only solution, and the others who say it is out of the question right now," said one Arab diplomat. "The positions are very clear now...but I do not say that the president has made up his mind. He certainly has not announced his policy."

The "provisional state" proposal, raised by Powell in his interview with the Arabic-language newspaper al-Hayat, stands out from the others because it is one of the few ideas that could appeal to both Arabs and Israelis.

But the analysts said that on closer scrutiny it was hard to see how the United States could bridge the gap between the Israeli concept of indefinite interim arrangements for the Palestinian territories and the Arab view of a provisional state as one step along a prearranged path to full statehood.

"I have serious doubts about its utility because in the end the Palestinians will ask about the Israeli roadblock down the street—is it still there or not?" said the Arab diplomat.

Walker said that unless the state had substance, Palestinians would treat the proposal much as they treated the offer of autonomy after the Camp David accords in 1978. "It all depends on content. It's not enough any more to say 'state.' You've got to have something behind it," he said. "If they are talking about a state with no powers, we go back to the old days of trying to convince the Palestinians that autonomy was the best thing since sliced bread and they kept saying 'Well, frankly, we're not interested in being the garbage collectors.'"

Telhami called the idea a "prescription for disaster" unless there was prior agreement on the next stage.

The usefulness of the proposed Middle East peace conference is also in doubt, given the gap between Arab expectations and the concept which Washington has offered so far.

The Arabs want a one-off conference that sets a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory, while Powell has said the meeting will be only the first of a series.

Walker said that, without US commitment to make a conference succeed, Powell would end up hosting a ministerial meeting of the "quartet"—the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Kingdom, but without the parties. ***Reuters***

Open skies to benefit all

WE in the Freedom to Fly Coalition welcome President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that an open skies policy is crucial to the development of Philippine tourism, and that her government is actively exploring ways to adopt and implement this policy. We will only add that the benefits won't be limited to tourism; nor will the policy require the government to take over or bail out Philippine air carriers.

In addition to tourism, trade, investment and overseas employment will be enhanced by increased air access. Everywhere in the world, wherever the open skies policy was adopted, the result has invariably been more trade, more investments and more passenger traffic. Because it fosters greater competition, this policy has led to lower fares and lower cargo costs.

The country's air carriers will also benefit. Our international carriers will benefit from the opening of new and richer markets. And domestic air carriers will get a boost from the additional traffic generated by more international arrivals. This has been the experience in Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, the United States, Australia, Canada and other countries. No country that adopted the policy has ever reverted to a protectionist one.

Only the inefficiently run and heavily indebted air carriers—which stand in dread of competition—have something to fear from an open skies policy. In contrast, the efficiently run Filipino carriers will surely flourish under such a regime. The same approach that enabled them to rise in our domestic commercial aviation will help them compete toe-to-toe with foreign carriers. Given the huge traveling Filipino population, particularly overseas Filipino workers, RP carriers have a strong base to build from.

Many countries and regions have adopted full aviation liberalization or open skies as national policy. The reason is clear: it is vital to economic growth. In the globalized world of today, where borders and artificial barriers are coming down, nations and economies must open up in order to draw more trade and investments. Open skies is an integral part of the policy mix.

In the Asia-Pacific region, and in Southeast Asia in particular, member countries are actively exploring the idea of a continent-wide and region-wide open skies regime. They believe the policy will spur economic development throughout the region. Only a few countries—trapped in outdated policies—remain outside the loop.

Given the President's initiative, we must seize the moment to act boldly on current opportunities to fully modernize aviation services in the country and turn the Philippines into a transportation and commercial hub in the Asia Pacific.

First, we should act speedily on all pending air talks designed to improve access to the country. Routes like Dubai-Manila which are crying out for more flights must be given policy support and relief from rent-seeking.

Second, we should initiate negotiations for bilateral open skies agreements with primary tourism markets and OFW destinations such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Middle East countries, Singapore and China.

Third, we should respond positively to the US proposal to fully liberalize air access between the Philippines and the United States, in the same way that our Asian neighbors did years ago.

Fourth, we should support the open skies initiative within Asean that would liberalize aviation in Southeast Asia.

Finally, we should accept the invitation to join the multilateral open skies agreement among Asia-Pacific countries, which at this stage already includes New Zealand, Brunei, Singapore, the United States, Chile and Peru. Multilateralism is where the world is moving and we should get on board.

At this time when the Philippines is striving to become more competitive in the world, open skies is clearly a policy whose time has come. Along with trade and financial liberalization, which we adopted years ago, it is an imperative of national policy if the country is to truly compete and develop.

—NARZALINA LIM, chair
MILA ABAD, president
TES HENDERSON
vice president, Freedom
to Fly Coalition

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bomb attack at US consulate kills 8

KARACHI—Eight people were killed in a powerful car bomb attack on the US consulate in the southern port city of Karachi Friday, with six consular staff among dozens injured, officials said.

"It was a car bomb . . . The blast was so powerful that the vehicle flew from one side of the road to the other side of the road," city police chief Tariq Jamil told AFP. "It appears to be a suicide bomber."

A US embassy spokesman in Islamabad said six consulate employees including one American and five Pakistani staff "sustained minor injuries when struck by flying debris" but he could not confirm police reports that a guard was killed.

"Many windows in the consulate have been blown out and the building has sustained structural damage. The extent of that damage is not yet known," he said.

The attack came a day after US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Pakistan on a mission to ease tensions with India, and a month after another Karachi car bombing that killed 11 French nationals travelling in a minibus.

Sindh province police chief Syed Kamal Shah played down links between Friday's blast and the May car bombing at the Sheraton hotel which is believed to have been carried out by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

"It was a different explosion from the one which took place on May 8. In that incident the car hit the bus, but in this incident it was from a moving car. There is no similarity in the two incidents," he said.

However, a Western diplomat in Islamabad said it seemed obvious the incidents were connected.

"I think most probably there is some link between the two," he said. "This is really a scenario which we had feared and which now has happened."

Shah said two policemen posted outside the consulate were killed and other police sources said that the bomber and a woman victim were among the casualties.

A police source at the scene told AFP that eight bodies had been found.

"Five bodies are intact and have been sent to hospital and there are three more and the body parts are lying in different places," the source said.

"They are at three different places, virtually ripped apart."

Shah said 40 people had been injured and staff at Karachi's Jinnah Hospital reported admitting 26 people in serious condition.

Police officers at the scene said the vehicle used in the attack was a small, high-roofed Suzuki van which had been travelling along the same road that the consulate is situated on.

The blast was detonated when it reached the corner of the compound and the huge explosion that followed destroyed part of the perimeter wall of the consulate, but left the main gate intact. *AFP*

Strong quake jolts Tokyo

TOKYO—A strong earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale shook Tokyo Friday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

The focus of the tremor, which occurred at 11:42 am (10:42 a.m. in Manila), was in Ibaraki prefecture, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Tokyo, at a depth of 50 km, the agency said. There was no risk of a tidal wave, it added.

The quake was powerful enough to keep high-rise buildings in Tokyo, designed to flex with tremors, swaying for about 30 seconds.

It forced the suspension of bullet train services to the north of Japan out of Tokyo, a JR East spokesman said.

Take-offs and landings at Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airport were temporarily suspended while the runways were checked for cracks, airport officials said, but flights resumed within minutes.

The quake's focus was about 25 km east of Saitama Stadium 2002, where one of the World Cup semi-finals is to be played on June 26, and about 50 km west of Ibaraki's Kashima stadium, which has already hosted all three of its scheduled World Cup matches.

Japan were due to meet Tunisia later in the day for a crucial game to determine whether the Cup co-hosts advance to the last 16, but there was little likelihood of any disruption as the venue is roughly 500 km to the west of the quake's focus. *AFP*

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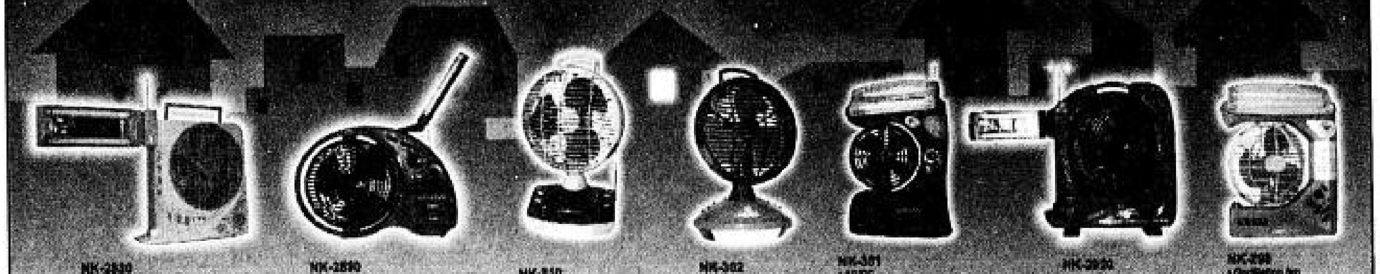

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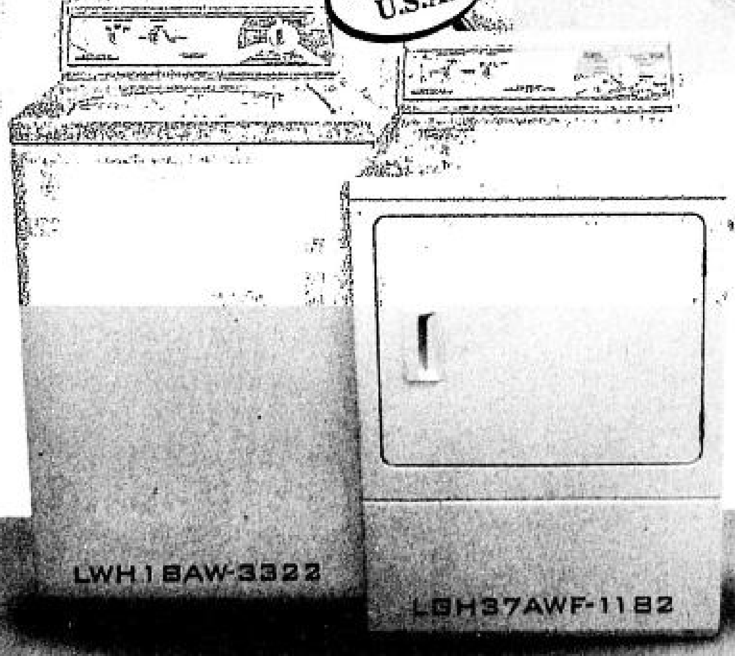

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Solar system similar to our own discovered

WASHINGTON—US astronomers announced Thursday the discovery of a solar system they say bears similarities to our own and includes three planets orbiting a sun 41 light years away.

Astronomers said they have identified an extrasolar planet orbiting the star, named 55 Cancri, at about the same distance Jupiter orbits the sun.

"Today we are announcing the discovery of a planet that for the first time resembles a planet in our solar system," Geoffrey Marcy, an astronomer professor at the University of California at Berkeley, told a Nasa press conference here.

"All other extrasolar planets discovered up to now orbit closer to the parent star, and most of them have had elongated, eccentric orbits. This new planet orbits as far from its star as our own Jupiter orbits the sun," Marcy said.

The planet is more than 500 million miles from its sun, a comparable distance to that between Jupiter and our sun. And it takes 13 years to complete a revolution as opposed to Jupiter's 11.86 years, although it is 3.5 to 5 times bigger than Jupiter.

A second planet, a gaseous planet similar in size to Jupiter, revolves around 55 Cancri at one-tenth Earth's orbit, taking only 14.6 days to circle the star.

Scientists have not yet ruled out finding an Earth-sized planet between the Jupiter-sized and Jupiter-distanced planets orbiting 55 Cancri, which is five billion years old. The discovery comes after 15 years of studying 55 Cancri.

At the same press conference, Marcy and his colleague Paul Butler, of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, announced the discovery of a total 15 new extra-solar planets, bringing the total number of known planets outside our solar system to more than 80.

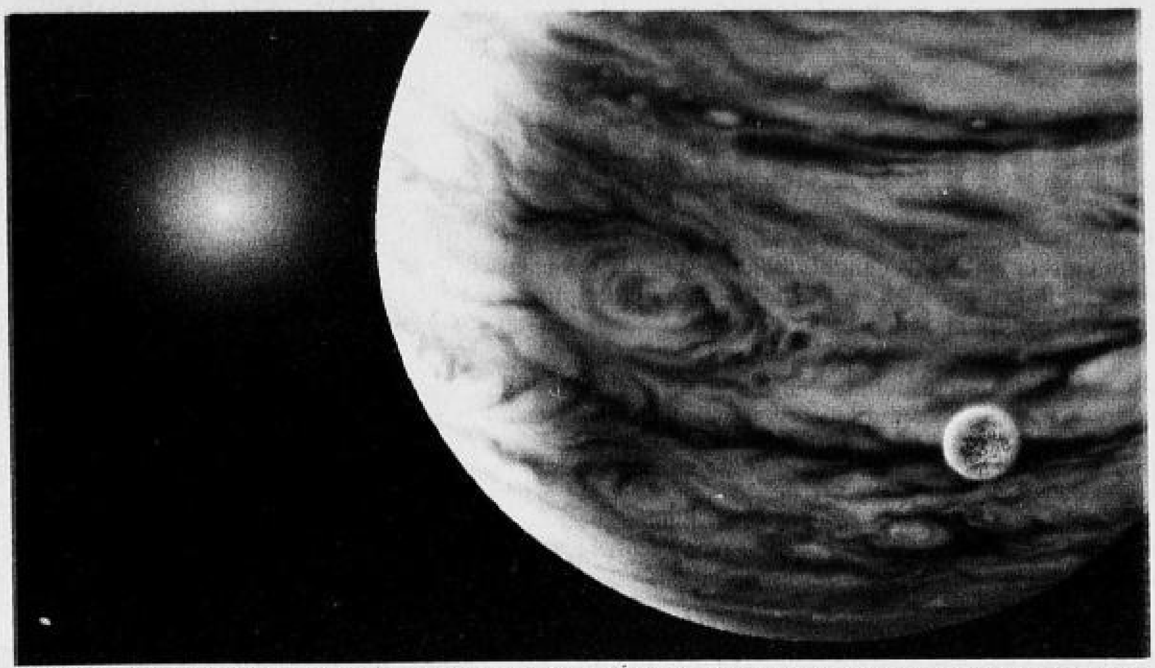
One of the new planets found circle the star HD49674 in the Auriga constellation at about one-twentieth Earth's orbit, although it is 40 times the size of Earth.

"We haven't yet found an exact solar system analog, which would have a circular orbit and a mass closer to that of Jupiter. But this shows we are getting close," Butler said.

"I think we will be finding more of them among the 1,200 stars we are now monitoring," he said.

"The first planet outside of our solar system was discovered only six years ago," Marcy said, underlining the radipity with which this field of astronomy has advanced.

"The existence of analogs to our solar system adds urgency to missions capable of detecting Earth-sized planets," said Dr. Charles Beichman, Nasa's Origins Program chief scientist at the agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. *AFP*



PLANET-hunters have detected what they believe is a Jupiter-like gas ball orbiting a star much like our Sun, at a distance that allows for the possibility of an unseen Earth-type planet orbiting in between. This artist's conception released June 12 depicts a Jupiter-mass planet orbiting the star 55 Cancri, about 41 light years from Earth. A possible moon around the planet is shown (lower right) because such moons are thought to be common around this type of planet, but no moon has been detected.

REUTERS/HO/NASA

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Loya Jirga installs Karzai, to shape cabinet

KABUL—Afghanistan's Loya Jirga grand assembly was due to begin selecting the make-up of a new transitional government Friday after voting overwhelmingly for Hamid Karzai as the head of state.

While Karzai's victory late Thursday was all too predictable, the new cabinet has been the subject of widespread speculation and intense horse-trading.

The grand assembly is tasked under the terms of last December's Bonn agreement to pick the "key personnel" of a transitional government that will run Afghanistan until full elections in 2004.

But it will be left up to delegates to decide which posts they will select with the newly-empowered Karzai given a certain degree of leverage to shape a government in his own image.

It is widely expected that the Loya Jirga will result in a re-balancing of power at the heart of government, which has been dominated by senior members of the Northern Alliance since their victory over the Taliban last November.

The number of cabinet posts is likely to be cut from the present 29 to around 20 while some of the more prominent members of the interim administration are likely to fall by the wayside. *AFP*

More Aussie priest abuse victims come forward

SYDNEY—More than 150 victims of sexual abuse by clergy in Australia have come forward in the past two weeks after reports the Catholic Church had paid other victims "hush money," a support group said on Friday.

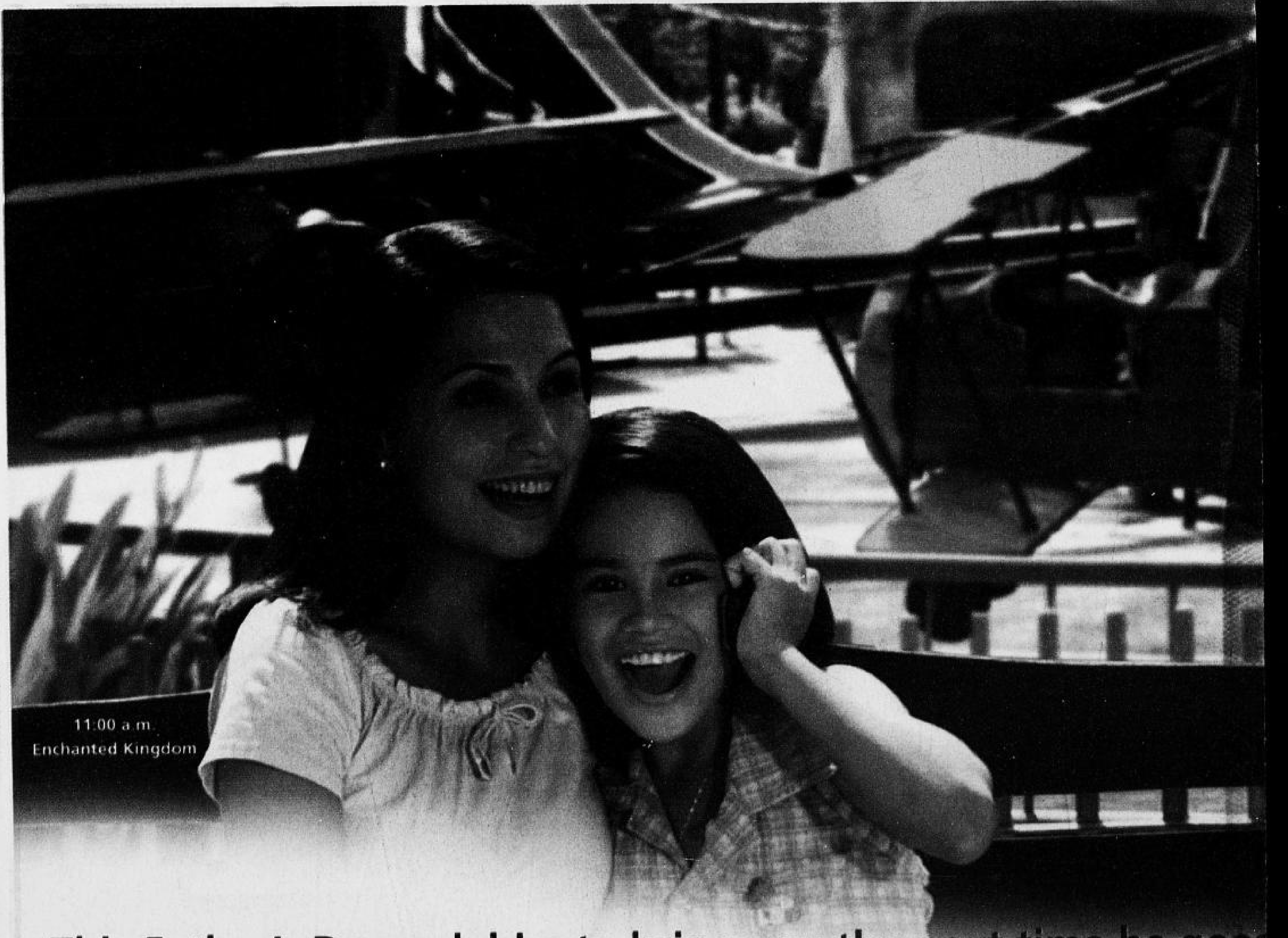
"I am quite shocked at what we are hearing and the volume of complaints. You can't do more than two hours on the phone, it's too distressing," said Chris MacIsaac, spokeswoman for the victims' group, Broken Rites.

She told Reuters that most of the victims said they were abused as children by Catholic priests and brothers, some as long as 40 years ago and others only 10 years ago.

The revelations are part of a widening scandal that has shaken the global Catholic Church to its foundations, costing clergy their jobs in the United States, Poland, Ireland, Canada and Australia.

"We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg in terms of those who do come forward and speak. Most keep silent about it, they fear rejection," said MacIsaac, herself a victim of clergy abuse.

"We want an independent inquiry because it's the only way we are going to determine how big this problem is—the church has covered it up." *Reuters*



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Rumsfeld: Risk of S. Asia nuke war has passed

MANAMA—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday he believes the danger of a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan has passed.

"I'm not going to talk about nuclear weapons. I think the elevation of that subject (nuclear confrontation) is past us. Both of those (Indian and Pakistani) leaders are managing their affairs as people responsible for weapons of that power," he said.

Rumsfeld made his remarks to reporters on board the plane flying him back to Washington from Islamabad. His plane made a refueling stop in Bahrain.

But the defense secretary, who was in New Delhi before Islamabad, warned that the situation could slip back if India and Pakistan did not continue making progress toward easing tensions.

He suggested the nuclear-armed rivals could begin by restraining artillery fire across the Line of Control that divides disputed Kashmir and opening channels of communication.

"If firing were dropped down to zero and was used only for the purpose of self-defense or stopping infiltrations, (that) would begin the process of easing some of the lingering hostilities," Rumsfeld said.

He said one of the "easy" things that could be done now that both New Delhi and Islamabad "don't favor infiltration across the Line (of Control)" would be to have "some sort of an understanding that it's always proper to fire (only) in self-defense."

Rumsfeld expressed concern, however, that with elections coming up in both countries, it may be difficult to maintain momentum toward an easing of tension.

"I have a sense that there is that risk and it's worth recognizing that," he said.

Rumsfeld likened the situation to a heavily loaded wagon going uphill which would begin to slip back if it stopped.

"As you move toward election periods in both countries, there will be pressures with the parties and between parties to do or say things. In my view, that temptation has to be balanced against the wagon image," he said.

"If you're coasting and you're not making progress, you're not doing something, it is not getting better, you very likely are in a situation where it may be getting worse," he added.

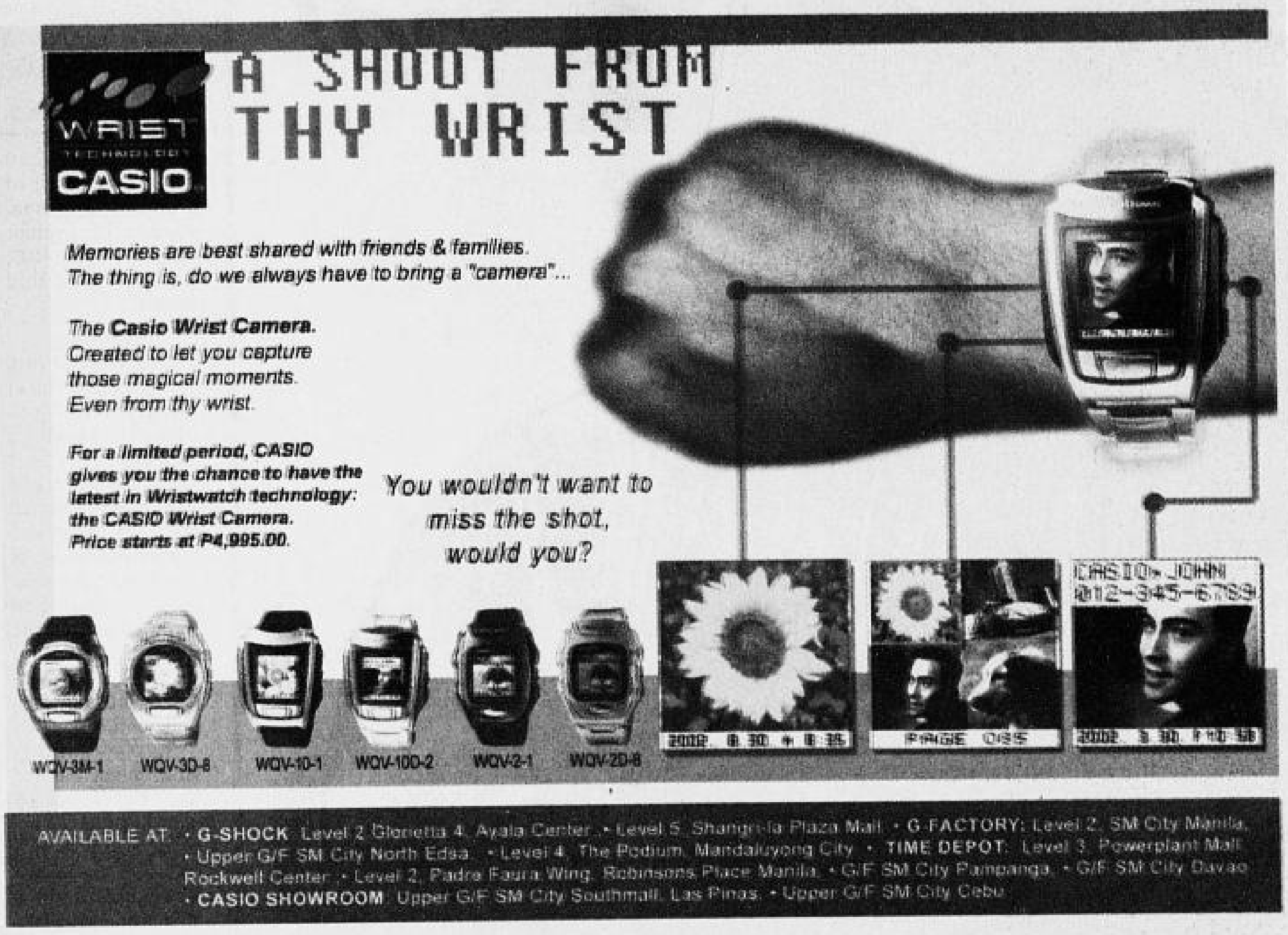
Speaking in Islamabad earlier Thursday, Rumsfeld expressed hope that India and Pakistan would in time ease their forces off high alert but said both sides needed to find ways to talk to each other.

After meeting with Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, a day after talks with Indian leaders in Delhi, Rumsfeld praised the leaders of both South Asian countries for taking steps to defuse tensions over Kashmir.

He also suggested that the stress of maintaining troops on high alert on the border would bring about a further de-escalation.

There were further hopeful signs Thursday in New Delhi, which accuses Islamabad of fomenting a 13-year-old Kashmiri insurgency, with an official saying troops would be pulled back from the Pakistan border when India is satisfied extremists are not sneaking across the Line of Control.

India has made a number of conciliatory gestures this week, including reopening its airspace to Pakistani flights, ordering warships to pull back from waters off Pakistan and making arrangements to send a high commissioner back to Islamabad. **AFP**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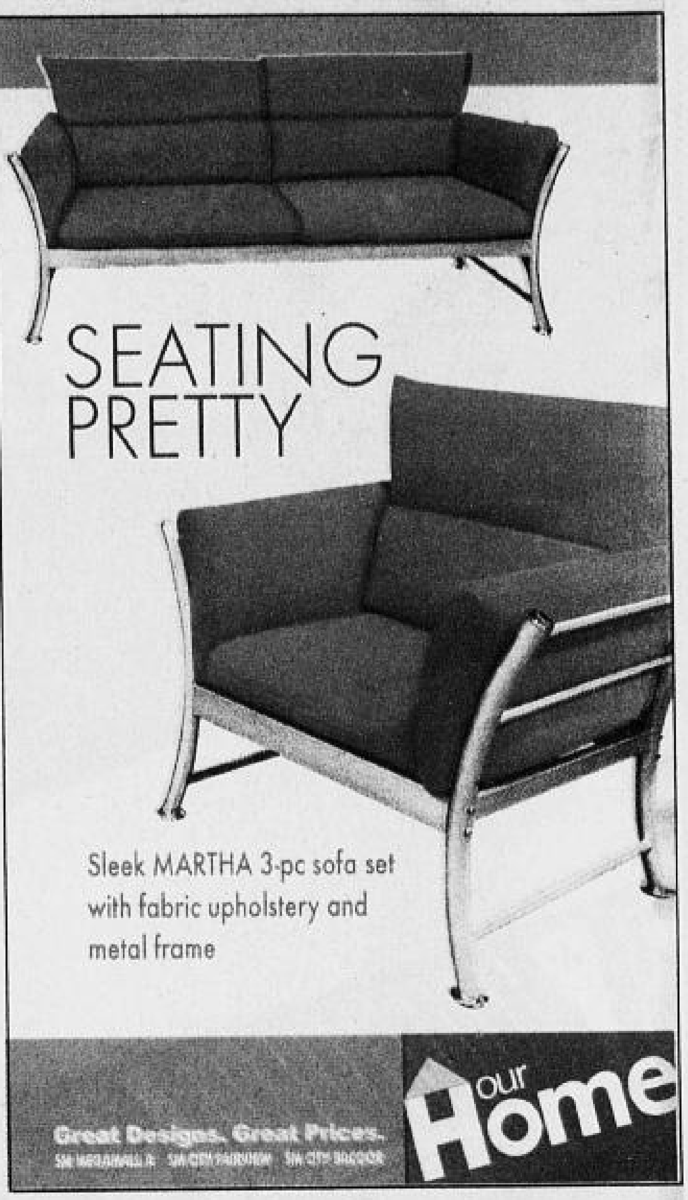
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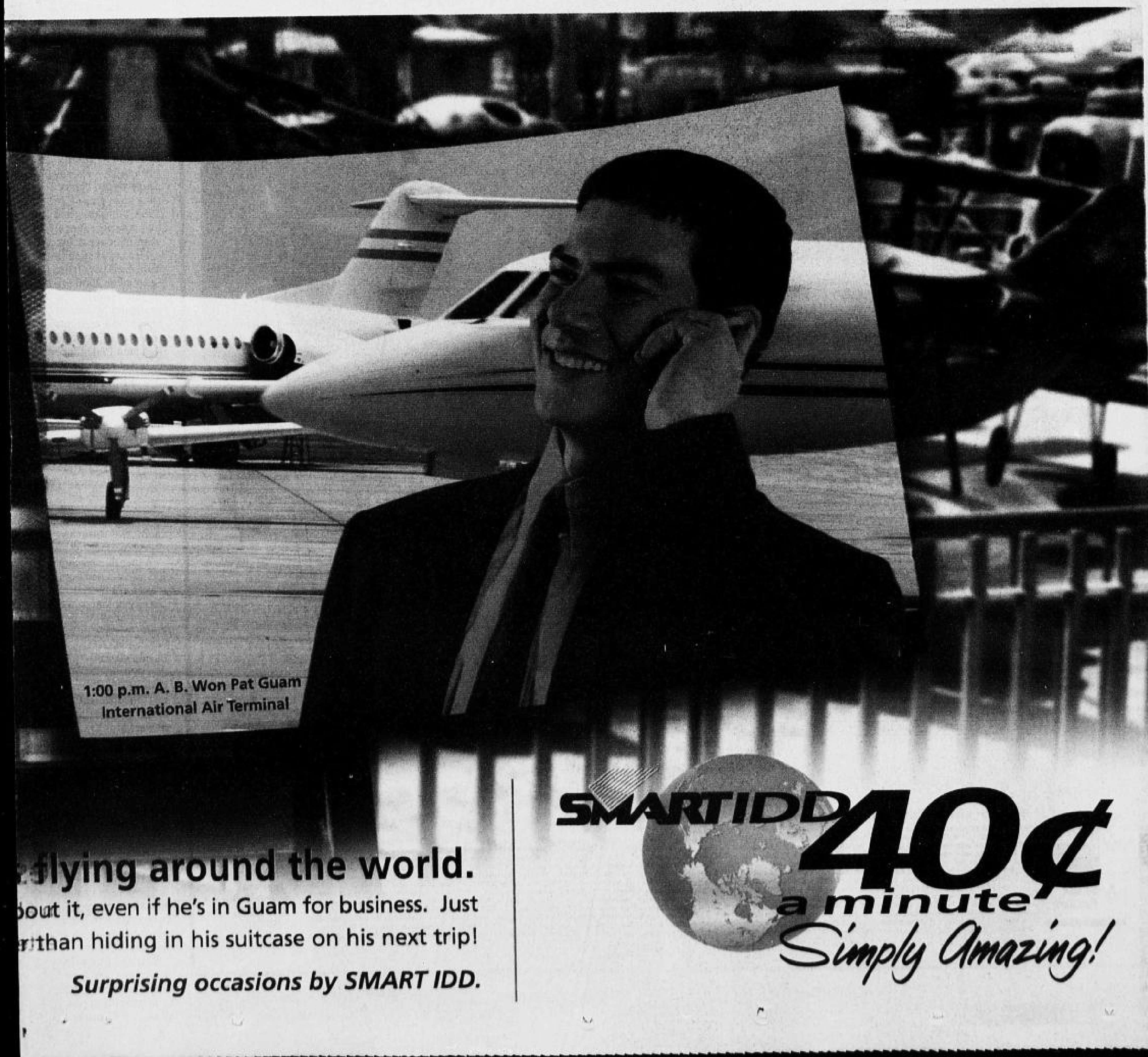
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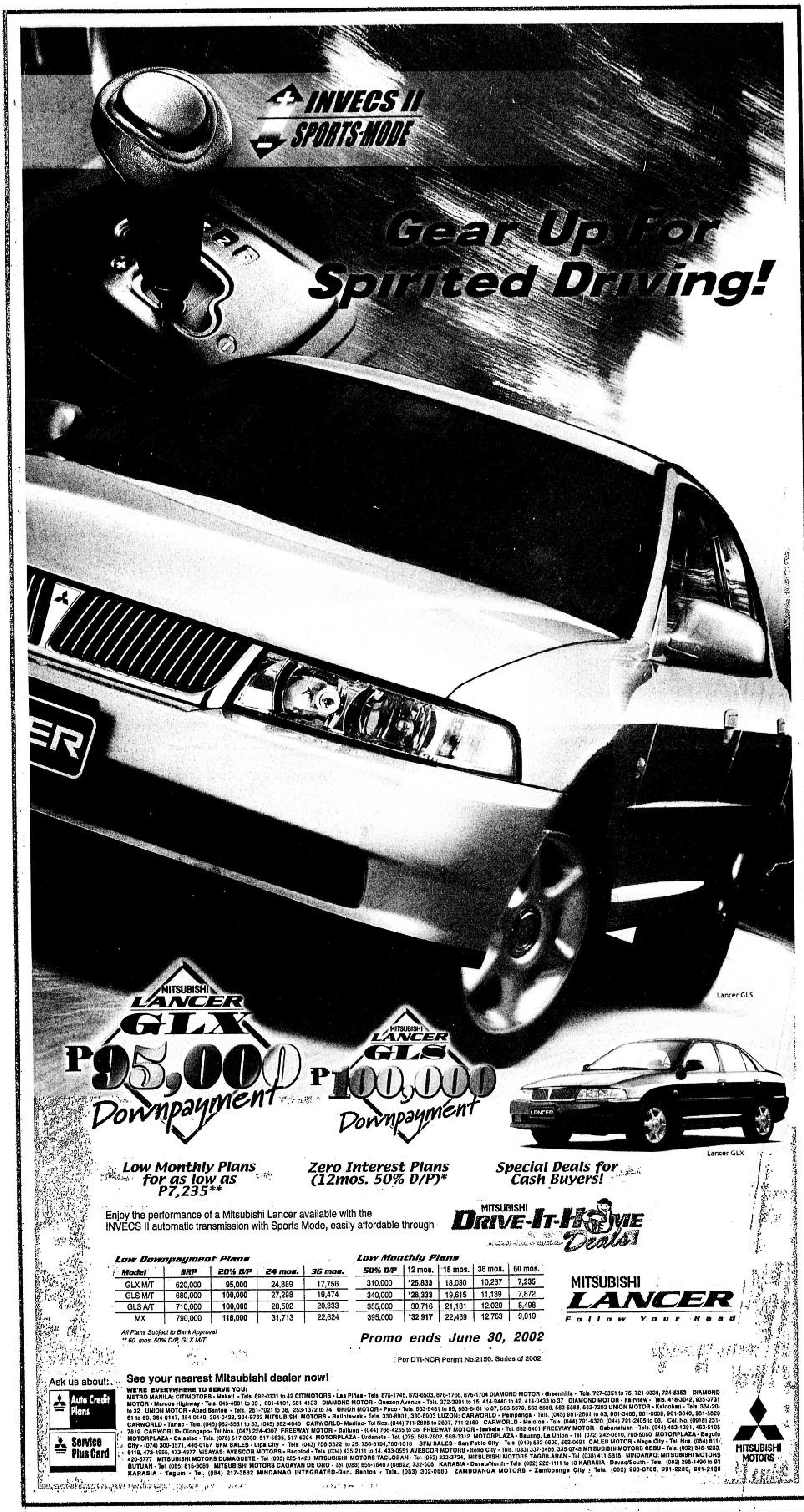

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Suu Kyi travels outside capital

RANGOON—Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi set off for a two-day pilgrimage to a provincial shrine on Friday in the most significant test of her freedom of movement since her release from house arrest last month.

"The visit is a private pilgrimage," said a source from her National League for Democracy (NLD).

Suu Kyi was driven from her Rangoon home at about 6.10 a.m. in a convoy of four cars, accompanied by other senior members of the NLD, party sources told Reuters.

Monk

She was heading for Thamanya Hill in Karen State, southeast of Rangoon, to see revered Buddhist monk U Winaya, one of the most respected monks in Burma who attracts thousands of devotees each year to his retreat. Suu Kyi also visited the monk shortly after her release in 1995 from a previous spell in detention.

Burma's military government released Suu Kyi from 19 months of house arrest on May 6 and has said there are now no restrictions on her movements.

But the extent of her freedom remains largely untested as until now she has not ventured far beyond the outskirts of Rangoon.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, is a devout Buddhist. She emerged as the figurehead of the country's pro-democracy movement in 1988, and since then has spent several years in house arrest.

Her latest spell in house arrest, from September 2000 until last month, was prompted by several high-profile attempts to travel outside Rangoon in defiance of travel restrictions.

Standoff

A bid to travel south of the capital by road in August 2000 led to a nine-day roadside standoff when police blocked her car. She was eventually forcibly returned home, sparking an outcry from the international community.

A month later Suu Kyi was stopped from travelling by rail to the city of Mandalay, and placed under house arrest.

Suu Kyi's NLD won Burma's last election, in 1990, by a landslide. But the military government refused to hand over power. Suu Kyi was held under house arrest from 1989 to 1995.

Suu Kyi has been holding secretive talks with the junta since October 2000, aimed at ending the country's political deadlock. But the talks have yet to yield any concrete agreement and have focused on "confidence-building", officials say.

Suu Kyi has said she wants to get down to substantive talks as soon as possible. *Reuters*

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Cebu cops decide to pull out of cult leader's island base

DINAGAT ISLAND, Surigao del Norte—Agents of the Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group (CIDG) from Cebu, who came to arrest parricide suspect Ruben Ecleo Jr., yesterday said they were pulling out of the island.

The reason: They have observed that Caraga police authorities have gone soft on Ecleo, suspect in the murder of his 27-year-old wife Alona Bacolod.

Bacolod's decomposing body was found inside a garbage bag, which was dumped in the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete early this year.

"Our stay here has become immaterial. The regional director has ordered the replacement of our asset, who had been guiding us on the possible whereabouts of Ruben. We do not have information anymore, *kaya magiging suntok sa buwan na lang tong efforts namin*," a CIDG agent who refused to be identified said.

The observation was shared by a CIDG team from Caraga, which was sent to serve as backup of the arresting group.

The sources said Caraga police director Chief Supt. Alberto Olario replaced Ruben Bacolod, brother of Alona, as guide to "prevent more problems from the PBMA side."

Dr. Gwendolyn Ecleo, the fugitive's younger sister, allegedly requested his relief.

CIDG 7 chief Supt. Edwin Diocos confirmed his team was leaving for Cebu but only because they ran out of money.

But Diocos admitted Ruben Bacolod would be sailing back to Cebu with the team.

CIDG 13 chief Supt. Francisco Tiqui cited a similar reason for his team's return to Butuan City.

But the sources said the reasons given by their commanders were aimed at avoiding a misunderstanding with their counterparts in the police.

They said what really made them suspect that the efforts to arrest Ecleo, leader of the anticommunist cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), were going nowhere was when Surigao del Norte provincial director Supt. Ricky Nerbes and 10 members of the Provincial Police Office slept comfortably inside an air-conditioned room in a beach resort owned by Bobby Baltazar, son of PBMA executive vice president Commonwealth Baltazar.

PBMA followers also allegedly contributed food for their dinner.

Senior Supt. Celso Curitana, director of the Caraga Regional Mobile Group, slept at the residence of Rep. Glenda Ecleo. Curitana was tasked by Olario to escort Orlando Salatandre Jr., legal counsel for the fugitive cult leader.

Nerbes admitted to the INQUIRER that he and his men slept at the beach resort but insisted they paid for their stay there. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Broadcaster now a wanted man for rape, sex offenses

BACOLOD CITY—The Bacolod City Police Office (BCPO) has classified as second most wanted person in the city a broadcaster who was sentenced in absentia last month to at least four years in prison for sexually harassing an intern.

The BCPO already intensified its operations against Franklin Villanueva who was reported to be hiding in the southern part of the province, police sources said.

Villanueva rose to the second most wanted position after its previous occupant, Johnny de la Torre, who was accused of raping his four daughters, was arrested in Bago City in Negros Occidental.

The most wanted person in Bacolod is Ricardo Nobel, a former policeman who is facing two counts of murder. An arrest warrant has been issued against him by the court.

Villanueva is also facing an arrest warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court here for separate rape charges. The broadcaster was accused of raping his housemaid.

Villanueva used to host a program over a cable channel before he disappeared late last year in the middle of the trial for acts of lasciviousness and sexual harassment filed by a 22-year-old intern against him.

The intern alleged that she was sexually harassed by Villanueva on April 21, 1998 inside a lodging house in Bacolod, Negros Occidental. Judge Alfredo Hilario of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities found Villanueva guilty and sentenced him in absentia to four to six years in prison.

New laws that protect women's rights against abuses have resulted in tighter guarding against sexual harassment in places of work.

The law that revived the death penalty has also put in the death row convicts who had been found guilty of rape. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Dead 'bangus' turning up in fish ponds in 2 Pangasinan town villages

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—The fish kill scourge continues to haunt this coastal town, with both cultured and wild *bangus* (milkfish) turning belly up in Barangays Luna and Pilar here.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which has been monitoring the aquaculture industry here, said the *bangus*' gills are rotting, preventing them from breathing.

Apart from the gills, there are no physical problems with the *bangus*, Westly Rosario, chief of the BFAR research center in Dagupan City, said.

"The *bangus* were not affected by any kind of bacteria and their entrails and bodies looked healthy," he said.

The BFAR has not taken [illegible] samples of the wild *bangus* yet.

The rotting gills could be an effect of high levels of hydrogen sulfide, a toxic gas, in the town's aquaculture areas, he said.

Rosario said the hydrogen sulfide in Bolinao's waters could have been produced by fish feeds' amino acids that contain sulfur.

About 15-30 percent of fish feeds given to the *bangus* settles at the sea bottom.

"The excess feeds, dead planktons and *bangus*' wastes combined to make a suitable breeding place for anaerobic bacteria that produced hydrogen sulfide," Rosario said.

The fish kill affected all sizes of the fish from fingerlings to the marketable size.

The BFAR's water quality monitoring team, headed by Regino Ragpala, said fish pen caretakers in Barangay Luna refused to answer questions from the team such as how long had the fish kill been going on and how many fish had died.

"They did not want the local government and the fishery authorities to know about the mishap because it was mostly their fault," he said.

Gil Jacinto, director of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI), said Bolinao's seabed has toxic organisms that are caused by uncontrolled aquaculture.

"Once you messed up with the (ecological) system, the effects will come to us," he said.

Rhodora Azanza, an expert on algal bloom from UPMSI, said because of continuous aquaculture activities, the water would have no chance to cleanse itself.

Villagers get surprise of lives via hailstones

BACOLOD CITY—Residents of the mountain village of Biniquil in Kabankalan City got the surprise of their lives when hailstones, as big as corn kernels, dropped on their roofs on Wednesday.

The hailstones rained for about 20 minutes in Biniquil, a remote village located five kilometers from the city proper of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, about 96 kilometers south of this city.

Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco said he was informed by Kabankalan City Councilor Jeanna Cordova and engineer Rogelio Diaz that the ice pellets started falling on Barangay Biniquil at about 4:30 p.m.

This was the first time in recent years that hailstones rained in Negros Occidental.

Dr. Prisco Nilo, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather forecasting chief, said hailstones are common occurrences especially in mountainous areas like Biniquil.

But he added that hailstones do not usually occur in one specific place.

Nilo said hailstones occur when cumulonimbus clouds form, about 12 kilometers above ground.

"When these clouds form, freezing level occurs five kilometers above ground causing cloud droplets to freeze," he added.

When it rains, Nilo said cloud droplets that become ice particles up in the clouds fall to the ground as hailstones.

Melvin Fiarro of the provincial disaster management team said hail is usually associated with thunderstorms. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Mild quake shakes Visayas, Mindanao areas

DUMAGUETE CITY—Half of Negros Island mildly shook for almost nine minutes yesterday morning as a tectonic earthquake stuck many parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.

No damage was immediately reported in the earthquake, which registered Intensity 3 from Bayawan City to Bais City in Negros Oriental.

Henry Villaflores, observer at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) at Barangay San Antonio, Sibulan town, Negros Oriental, said the quake registered Intensity 5.4 at its epicenter 53 kilometers southwest of Marawi City.

A Phivolcs bulletin said the quake was caused by movements in the Lanao fault. The movement was detected a kilometer in the earth's crust.

The quake also registered Intensity 5 in Iligan City; 4 in Cotabato, Dipolog and Pagadian; 3 in Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga; 2 in Cebu, Kidapawan, Tagbilaran City in Bohol and Siquijor; and 1 in Camiguin. ***Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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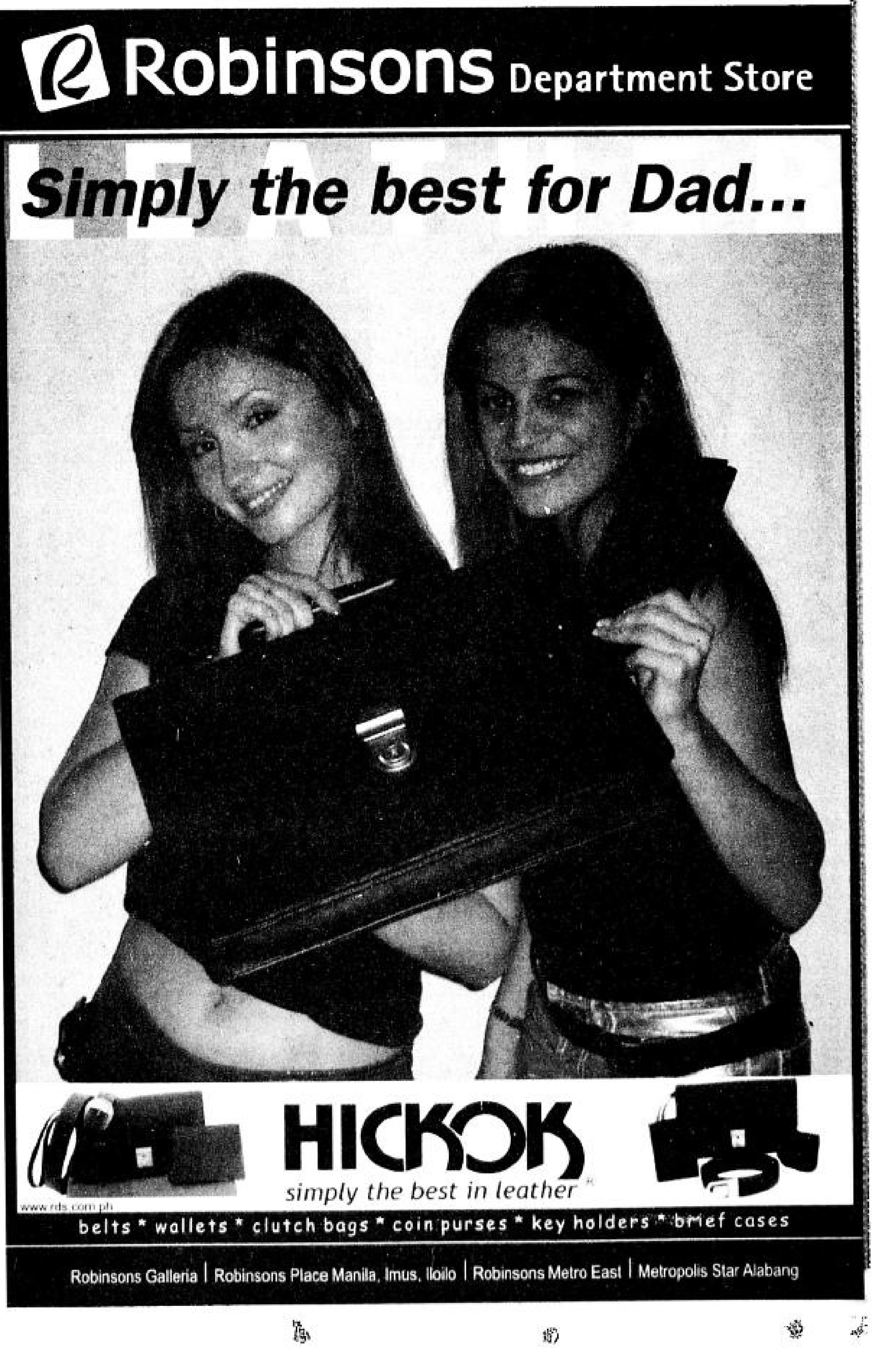

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Troopers sent to south Negros against bandits

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Army troopers and policemen were posted in the southern towns of Negros Oriental, which is just five hours by pumpboat from the coast of Zamboanga del Norte where intense military operations are going on against the remaining members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

Senior Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, police provincial director, said the soldiers belonged to the 61st Infantry Battalion based in Cauayan town, Negros Occidental while the policemen came from the Provincial Mobile Group.

He, however, declined to give the exact number of troopers stationed at the southern towns for security reasons. But he stressed these soldiers and policemen were prepared to meet any threat.

Placed under watch were the resorts in the southern part of Negros Oriental as well as on Apo Island off the coast of Dauin town. The island is a known diving spot as well as an international showcase on coastal resource management.

Government troopers have been conducting intense offensive operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga del Norte now that the bandits no longer have hostages to shield them.

Elite Scout Rangers rescued American missionary Gracia Burnham on June 7 in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte. She has since returned to her home in Kansas.

Her husband, Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap were slain during the two-hour firefight.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted the couple on May 27, 2001 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan as they celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. Yap was abducted when the bandits entered Lamitan, Basilan on June 2, 2001.

Bolodo said the police have a good working relationship with the anti-kidnapping group Task Force Stingray of the Philippine Navy in guarding Negros Oriental's seas and southern coast.

"If (the Abu Sayyaf) want to try something silly, they can come (here) and we will be their welcoming party," said Task Force Stingray Commander Capt. Alex Pama.

Zamboanga del Norte is just five hours by pumpboat to the coastal town of Siaton in Negros Oriental, about 50 kilometers south of this city.

On Tuesday, Bolodo and Pama visited resorts in Siaton and on Apo Island on board the BRP Juan Magluyan to review security preparations.

Pama said residents should help the authorities by providing information on the movement of suspicious characters.

"We need all the support from the community because we can only be as helpful as you want us to be," he said.

Pama said that while they did not want to cause undue alarm in Negros Oriental, he said people should be aware of what was happening in the country.

Dumaguete has always been characterized as a peaceful city, he added, but there is no harm in being on a state of alert.

"At least, we're not sleeping on the job," Pama said.

More soldiers deployed to S. Tagalog, Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—The Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Luzon Command is set to deploy more troopers to the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions in connection with the synchronized Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

Maj. Jose Broso, AFP Civil Relations Group head for Southern Luzon, said Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko revealed in a command conference Wednesday that six additional battalions of soldiers and 32 companies of Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) will be fielded in the two Southern Luzon regions.

Broso quoted Kyamko as saying that the deployment of additional troopers was meant to ensure orderly and peaceful elections, particularly in remote villages.

He said five Cafgu companies are now being trained at the 204th Infantry Brigade headquarters in Mindoro while the rest of the Cafgus are being trained in various battalions assigned to Southern Luzon.

These units will then be sent to different areas to support the regular members of the armed forces.

"The deployment of additional regular and paramilitary forces was prompted by some election-related incidents in various areas in the Bicol Region," the military official said.

On June 6, Remy Torren, former barangay chair of Buenavista, Sorsogon City, was shot dead by three suspects in front of his residence.

The victim was reportedly set to file his certificate of candidacy the following morning.

Broso said that in some villages in Albay, the New People's Army has threatened candidates to withdraw their candidacy against the rebels' choices.

In Camarines Sur, he said, a group of seven armed men believed to be NPA members reportedly had a meeting at about 11 a.m., June 8, at the house of the barangay chair of Laguiao, Ragay town.

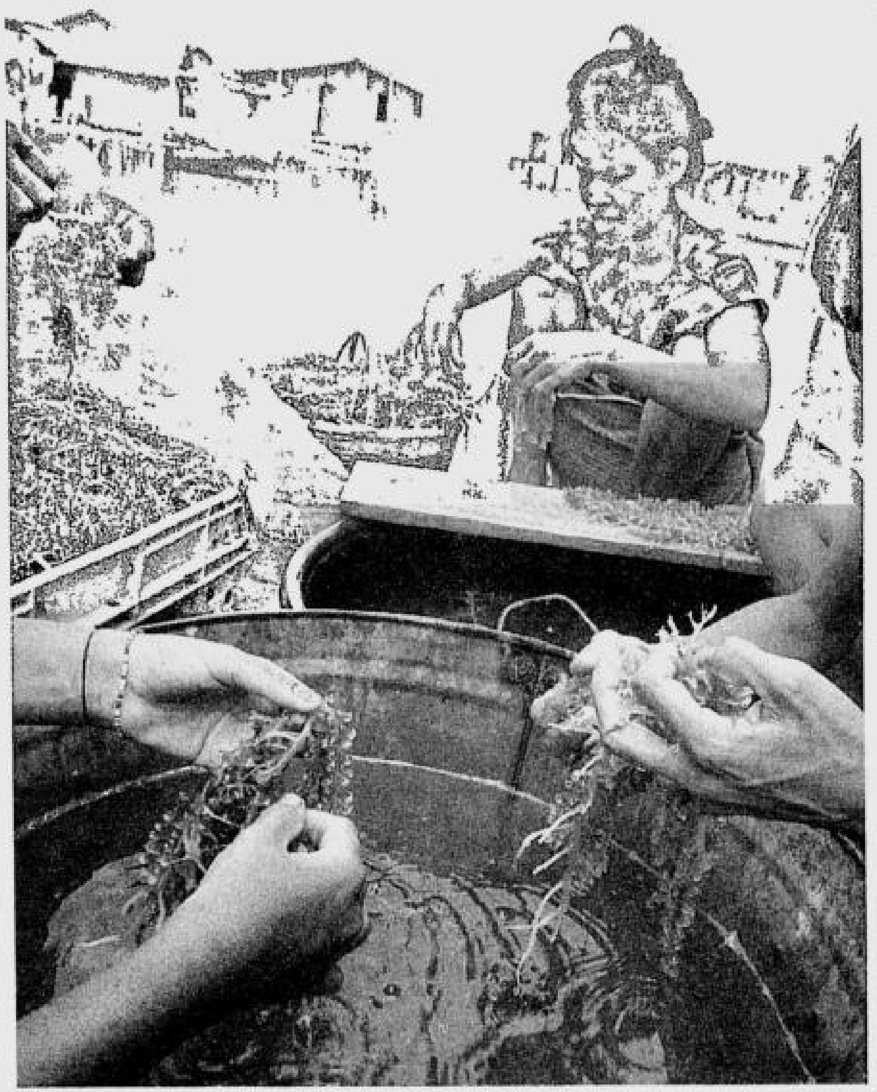
Broso alleged that the meeting was attended by representatives of party-list group Bayan Muna from the villages of Baya, Lower Sta. Cruz, Patalunan, Salvacion and Laguiao, all of Ragay town.

The participants, he claimed, were reportedly aspiring for the position of barangay chairs in their respective villages.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Bayan Muna leaders based in this city but they were not available.

Broso revealed that the NPA would not collect "permit to campaign fees" in the coming local elections but would reportedly harass people in their proclaimed controlled areas to support their candidates to ensure their victory.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



VAL HANDUMON

DOMESTIC CHORES
Members of a Badjao family share in the burden of cleaning seaweeds gathered in the seas of Taluksangay, Zamboanga City.

Oil spill payment excludes repair of ruined corals

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—Of the P12.5 million paid by the owners of the Singaporean vessel MV Nol Schedar to the municipal government here, no amount was appropriated to rehabilitate the corals damaged by the oil tanker.

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) was surprised that the local government agreed to an out-of-court settlement with the owners of MV Nol Schedar, which spilled oil after it ran aground at the Pudoc reefs here on Jan. 23, 2000.

It was the UPMSI, whose mangrove plantation and fishery studies were badly affected by the oil spill, which assessed the value of the destroyed corals and the effects of the spill on the marine environment.

"This is the first time that we learned about the settlement. We will ask the mayor's office if there is an amount provided for the rehabilitation of the corals," said Gil Jacinto, director of the UPMSI which runs a marine laboratory here.

INQUIRER sources said there was no amount appropriated by the municipal government to revive the dead corals.

Of the P12.5 million paid by the owners, P4 million was used for the extension and repair of the municipal building; P4.3 million for restructuring of the Government Service Insurance System loan repayment; P750,000 for fire insurance of the public market; P700,000 for the purchase of two used vans; and P105,000 for the purchase of 15 cellular phones.

Other expenses: Statutory and contractual obligations, P400,000; general services and public utilities, P75,000; and P200,000 for the repair and maintenance and gasoline of a patrol boat.

The mayor's office got P200,000 for public affairs fund while the vice mayor's office used P300,000 for the construction of the second floor of the municipal council's building.

Another P5,124 was appropriated for the salary adjustment of the municipal registrar.

A town official said P1,038,372 was used to pay for docket fees in filing the case in court.

There was an unappropriated P356,584.64 from the total amount.

Mayor Jesus Celeste earlier said reviving the corals was the responsibility of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Lawyer Ayar Montemayor said he did not remember if the mayor's office committed part of the compensation money to the UPMSI for reviving the coral area.

ROUNDUP

Village chair killed

LEGAZPI CITY—Unidentified armed men killed a barangay captain of Ocampo, Camarines Sur in front of his house at 9:45 p.m., Sunday. Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla, Camarines Sur police director, identified the victim as Salvador Gonzales, 51, resident of Barangay Salvacion. Gonzales was shot in the armpit, causing his immediate death. He was the second barangay official to be killed in relation to the Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15. The first was Remy Torren, 65, who was shot dead on June 6 in front of a chapel in Barangay Buenavista, Sorsogon. He died instantly from bullet wounds. The victim's wife Emerlita said he was supposed to file his certificate of candidacy the following day.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

22 jueteng men bagged

CALAPAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation arrested 22 jueteng personnel while the suspects were drawing the winning numbers combination in Barangay Ilaya here. NBI agent Mario Minor said they seized jueteng paraphernalia including bet lists and cash, which, he said, they will use as evidence against the suspects. Supt. Alexander Aceveda, Calapan City police chief, also reported that his men arrested 11 jueteng bet collectors. Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr. earlier ordered Senior Supt. Voltaire Calzado, new Oriental Mindoro police director, to replace the police chiefs in 14 towns of the province, and in Calapan City, who will fail to stop jueteng within 15 days.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

5 nabbed for drugs

LEGAZPI CITY—Elements of the Camarines Sur Police Office led by Supt. Bernardino Caparas arrested five persons, including a drug pusher, in a buy-bust operation at 7 p.m., June 8, in Naga City. In a report, Supt. Roberto Rongavilla, Camarines Sur police director, identified the pusher as Victor Rosales, 36, of No. 2 Kayanga St., Mac Mariano Village, Zone I, Balagtas, Naga City. Confiscated from him were three small plastic sachets containing a total of 607 milligrams of shabu, and P2,500 in marked money used during the buy-bust operation. Police also arrested four other persons caught in the act of sniffing shabu.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Massacre suspect nabbed

TUY, Batangas—Police have arrested the suspect who killed a mother and her two children on Monday in Barangay Bayudbud, this town, less than 24 hours after committing the crime. Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rolando Lorenzo identified the suspect as Christopher Estipona, 24, also from the same barangay, who was still under the influence of drugs when caught by police. Victims Criselda Adove, 44, a housekeeper, her son Erickson, 16, and her daughter Lea, 7, were found dead inside their house with multiple hack wounds and lying in a pool of blood in the living room of their house. Five-month-old Jennelyn, the only survivor, was found alive crying while lying on the floor inside another room.

Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Man shot dead

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—A man suspected to be high on drugs shot his neighbors without provocation but was gunned down by responding policemen in Barangay Poblacion here. Henry Salazar, 49, a member of a gang believed to be involved in gunrunning and drug trafficking in the province and Nueva Ecija, opened fire when he saw policemen coming to his house. Recovered from him was a .38 cal. homemade revolver with three empty shells and a live bullet.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Suspected land grabbers

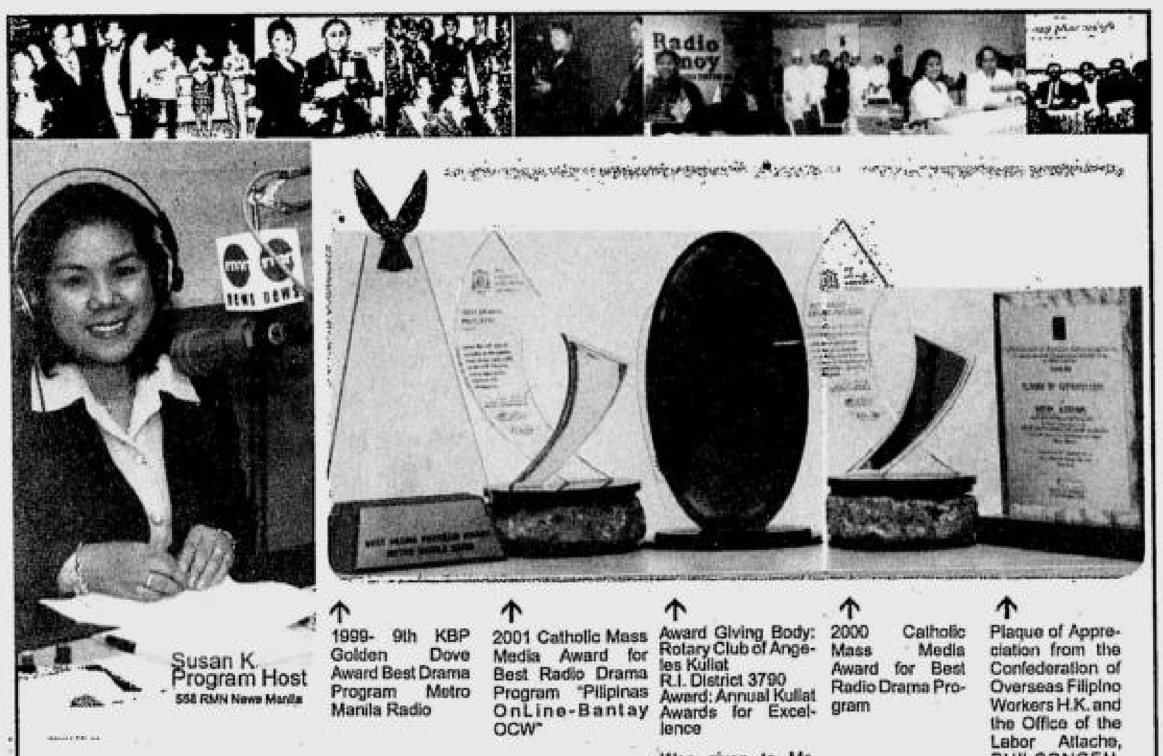
CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Acting on villagers' complaints, a joint police team arrested on Saturday three men believed to be members of a private armed group of land grabbers from Rizal. Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said Froilan Engelan, Ramon Babiera and Artemio Apao were brought to this camp after they fired at the police team in the mountainous area of San Jose del Monte City. They were charged with illegal possession of firearms and attempted homicide.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Farmers laud mayor

OZAMIZ CITY—A farmers group here has cited Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog "for his strong support to agrarian reform and rural development initiatives." The People's Council for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PCARRD) said Parojinog's strong support to the agrarian reform program has contributed to efforts at uplifting the lives of the rural folk. PCARDD mentioned Parojinog's "leadership (that resulted) in the good handling of a local government-managed communal irrigation construction project in the Kinuman agrarian reform community." PCARRD said the Kinuman irrigation became one of the country's models.

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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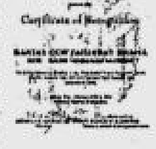

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 25°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/15/02

CARP FEUD

Group steps up pressure vs DAR exec

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A Cebu-based non-government organization on Wednesday denounced 14 congressmen from Central Visayas for seeking the reinstatement of an agrarian reform official whom the group had earlier asked to resign.

The Kowalisyon ng mga Organisadong Maralitang Mamamayan sa Kanayunan ng Kabisayaan (Komasaka) said the congressmen did not understand their petition that asked Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to return regional adjudicator Arnold Arrieta to Central Visayas.

In a statement, Komasaka said they believed the congressmen did not really know Arrieta.

The group claimed that the farmers in the Visayas had wanted Arrieta out of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as an adjudicator because they no longer trust him.

The Komasaka is an NGO working with the Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes (PhilNet) in implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

But Arrieta asked his critics to stick to the legal processes and not to resort to social pressure. "We have procedures to be followed," he said.

Fourteen congressmen from Central Visayas signed a petition dated May 27, asking Braganza to reinstate Arrieta as regional adjudicator in Central Visayas.

They cited Arrieta's clean 12-year record as a DAR official. Braganza had relieved Arrieta as regional adjudicator in Central Visayas last March and transferred him to the DAR central office. There was no official reason for Arrieta's relief.

Among those who signed the petition were Negros Oriental Reps. Herminio Teves, Emilio Macias II and Jacinto Paras and Bohol Reps. Roberto Cajes, Edgar Chato and Eladio Jala.

Cebu Reps. Raul del Mar, Antonio Cuenco, Jose Gullas, Antonio Yapha Jr., Simeon Kintanar, Clavel Martinez, and Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz were also signatories to the petition.

Rep. Orlando Fua of Siquijor also affixed his signature to the petition even if no land in his province was covered by the CARP.

But the Komasaka said Braganza should look into the stint of Arrieta as judge in the Regional Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Rarad) and as executive director of the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darad).

"If it is true that Arrieta has done no anomalies during his stint, let him name the persons responsible for the failures in the implementation of CARP (in Negros Oriental)," the NGO said.

"If Arrieta will be returned, he will have a debt of gratitude to the congressmen. What will happen to the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries when that will happen?" the group asked.

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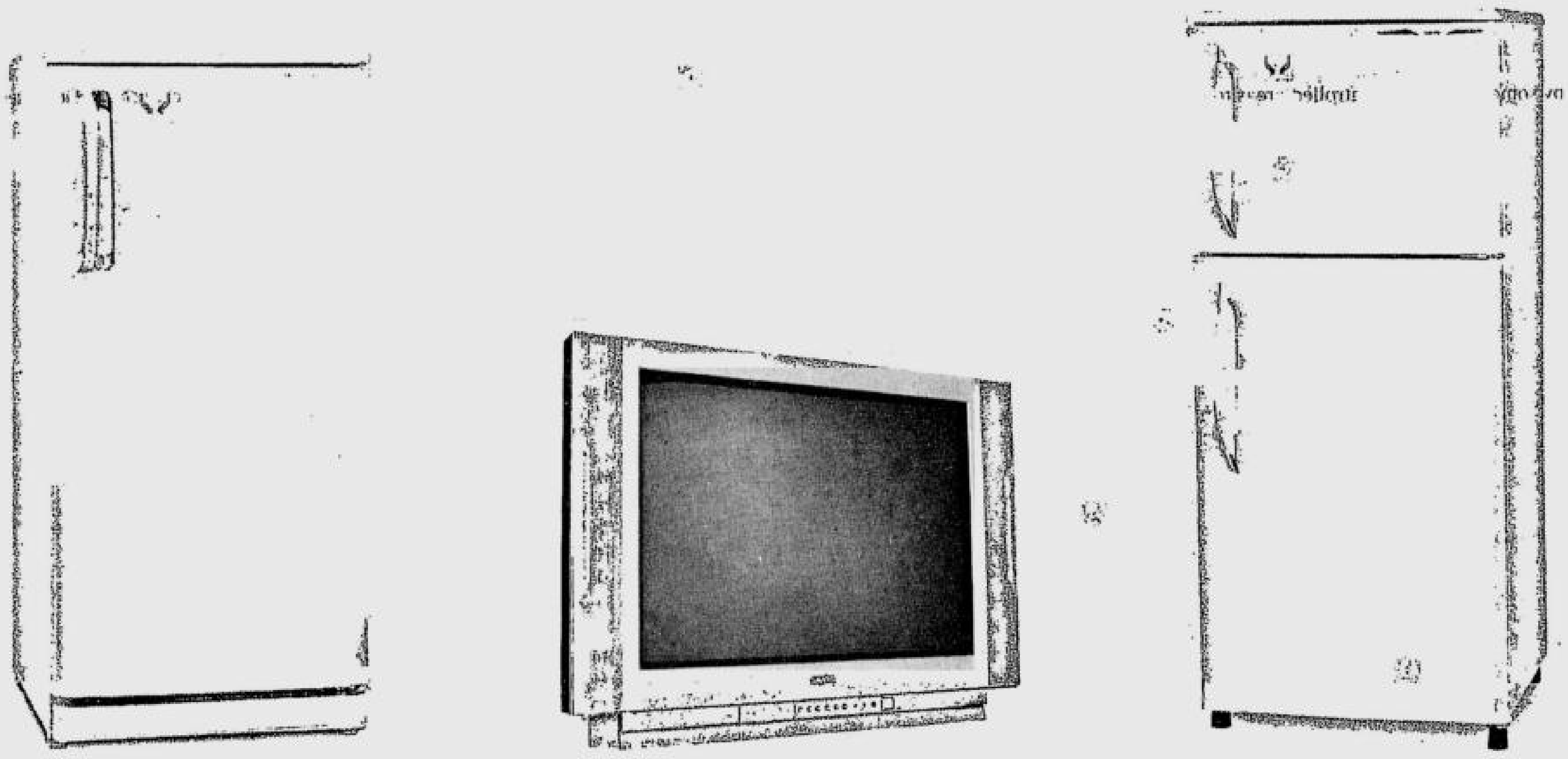

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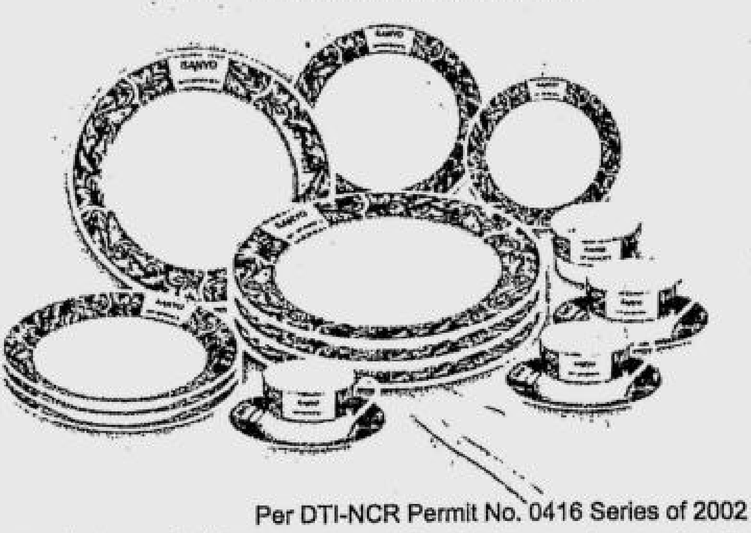

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INQUIRER *Visayas*
Editor Jun Bandayrel *Bureau Chief* Edralyn L. Benedicto

An offering of songs for a dying river

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

PERHAPS no other river system could inspire scores of Ilonggo composers, songwriters and musicians than the Magapa-Suage in central Iloilo.

'Today, after years of massive logging that stripped the watershed of trees and of rampant slash-and-burn farming, the Magapa-Suage river system is dying.'

The 37-kilometer-long Suage River and the largest of its tributaries, the Magapa River, have nourished the rice-growing towns of Janiuay, Mina, Pototan and Badiangan and some areas of Maasin and New Lucena.

Today, after years of massive logging that stripped the watershed of trees and of rampant slash-and-burn farming, the Magapa-Suage river system is dying.

To persuade the more than 80,000 people living on its banks to do something, the Magapa-Suage River Basin Management Council (MRBMC) and the Panay Rural Development Center (PRDC) sponsored a songwriting contest in 2000.

The result was "The Soul of the Magapa-Suage River," a collection of 12 songs in Hiligaynon giving tribute to a river as a source of life that has been taken for granted.

When the album was launched in April, local musicians involved in the project had a chance to jam with Joey Ayala, who is known for his alternative music and passion for the environment.

Ayala sang *"Tuburan sang Aton Kabuhi,"* the carrier single of the album, although he has yet to set foot on the Suage River. The songs in the album moved him, he said. "I have been advocating the cause of the environment in my music and I have found one by joining (efforts) in saving the Magapa-Suague river."

Ayala also held a concert in one of the malls in Iloilo City to make a pitch for the Magapa-Suage.

The songs in the album, available in cassette tapes (for P100) and compact discs (P400), are variations of themes on loss of trees, dumping of garbage and saving the river through community action.

Mariano Peñafiel's *"Tuburan Sang Aton Kabuhi"* appeals for help in caring for the neglected river system. "*Suba sang aton lahi/ Tuburan sang aton kabuhi/Suba* Magapa-Suage/*Tipigan ang katahom sini*. (River of our people/ Wellspring of life/Magapa-Suage river/ Let us preserve its beauty.)"

The other songs, which are finalists in the literary musical contest, are *"Manggad Sang Kahitaasan," "Dunang Manggad Naton," "Matinlo Nga Suba,"* "Ulikdi Pala-abuton N'yo," *"Ang Suba Sang Aton Kabuhi," "Suba nga Ginahandum," "Dalan Sa Kauswagan," "Suba Naton," "Manggad Sang Kahapon," "Magbinuligay"* and *"Suba Nga Dapat Tipigan."*

Awakening

Andres Tionko of the PDRC said the songs could awaken the communities into supporting efforts to rehabilitate the watershed.

"We want to stop the degradation of the watershed and we are adopting the strategy of tapping communities within to plant trees," said Tionko, project director of the Magapa-Suague River Basin Development Project and of the Panay Rural Development Center Inc.

The Magapa-Suage irrigates some 6,000 hectares of rice paddies that translates into an average yield of 3.5 metric tons per hectare or 21,000 MT (420,000 bags of palay) per harvest.

Half of the irrigated rice farms are served by the National Irrigation Administration while the rest gets their water from communal and private irrigation systems in the towns of Janiuay, Badiangan, Maasin and Mina.

The decreasing flow of the river can spell hundreds of millions of pesos in rice production losses alone.

The rich alluvial plain of the river system produces sugarcane, bananas, corn, abaca, livestock and poultry, freshwater fish, bamboo, firewood and charcoal, timber, vegetables, coconut, coffee and root crops.

The riverbeds also provide sand and gravel to meet most of the construction needs of Iloilo province.

Massive tree cutting in the watershed took place in the 1960s and 1970s when sugarcane fields expanded, claiming vast plains and hills.

The wood-fired sugar mills in central Iloilo needed fuel wood from timber and even fruit trees. *Kaingin* (slash-and-burn) farming was also widely practiced and became more destructive as riverine and upland communities grew.

Drying up

A 1987 Swiss satellite survey showed that the upper watershed area of the Magapa and Suage rivers no longer have primary forest cover, only thick vegetation along the upper reaches of Iloilo and Antique.

A PDRC study also noted that the watershed had been so stripped of vegetation that it could no longer hold rainwater until the next rainy season. In summer, springs, brooks and creeks dry up, and households have to take long walks to draw water.

Wells are also getting deeper, indicating a receding water table.

The Magapa is practically a "dead river" in certain months. Water stops flowing during the dry season and the irrigation system could not supply enough water for its service areas, at a time when farmers need it most, according to the PDRC.

RICE farming in Barangay Barasalon, Janiuay town, Iloilo in a photo taken by Hice Yelo for the Panay Rural Development Center 2002 calendar on the Magapa-Suage River System.

Conflicts over water rights are regular occurrences, while demand for water for household use is rising.

During the rainy season, floodwaters destroy the farms, infrastructure and communities along the riverbanks.

The remaining forested clumps at the headwaters of the Magapa-Suage, which are home to endemic flora and fauna, may soon disappear due to the loss of their habitat.

Joey's songs

The MRBMC and the PDRC seek to address all the environment and community issues in the Magapa-Suage. Composed of the mayors and heads of the municipal councils from six towns, the MRBMC intends to lead in rehabilitating the denuded watershed.

Recently, the council passed a resolution declaring Ayala an "adopted son of the Magapa-Suage." The citation was handed to him by Maasin Mayor Mariano Malones on April 20 and was signed by Janiuay Mayor Frankie Locsin, president of the council.

With the gesture, council officials hoped that Ayala would continue singing songs that will inspire and hasten the healing of the Magapa-Suage.

Boholanos revive interest in the life of Carlos P. Garcia

By Hazel P. Villa
Tagbilaran City

IN BUCOLIC Bohol, land of fiery freedom fighters Dagohoy and Tamblot, the late President Carlos P. Garcia is an icon.

Islanders mark the birth and death anniversaries of the man who is known as the Vice President who replaced Ramon Magsaysay and advocated the "Filipino First" policy.

Thirty-one years after his death on June 14, 1971, memories of the achievements of Garcia, the fourth president of the Republic (1957-61) and first president of the 1971 Constitutional Convention, seemed to have faded.

His family, the provincial government and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts are now trying to revive interest in the life and times of the late president by displaying his memorabilia in the two-story Garcia house on Hontanosa and Rocha streets in Tagbilaran City.

The Bohol Museum is also found in the house—a fairly large yet simple structure made of wood and concrete—which was bought by Garcia in the 1950s. Were it not for timely negotiations to maintain the material legacy of the late president, the structure could have been turned into a pension house.

On the second floor are Garcia's numerous *barong tagalogs*, mostly made by Tesoro's of Escolta, Manila. His first lady, Leonila Dimataga of Lapu-Lapu City, was partial to couturier Pitoy Moreno and shoes sold in Ermita, Manila.

Beside Leonila's dresses are the president's love letters encased in glass.

Gifts are also displayed, the most notable among them a complete grooming kit in a leather bag (quaint for the 21st century) that was given by American actor Robert Wagner when Garcia visited New York as president.

Nationalist

What Garcia wore in two of the most important political events in his life gave a glimpse of the man's change of attitude. Or maybe, it was just a case of nationalism overtaking cosmopolitan sartorial finesse.

***Barong Tagalogs* owned by the late President Carlos P. Garcia and the Filipino gowns of his late wife, Leonila, are on display at the second floor of the Garcia house in Tagbilaran City, which has been turned into the Bohol Museum.**

For his presidential inauguration on Dec. 30, 1957, Garcia wore an elegant three-piece suit with tails by Arrow Shoreham. But for his inaugural address as first president of the 1971 Constitutional Convention on June 11, 1971, he was attired in a simple yet manly *barong tagalog* designed by Pierre Cardin. Garcia carried a wooden cane as fashion accent.

Garcia carried himself well. And if one were to ask his surviving staff members and relatives, they were one in saying "CPG had a quiet dignity" and an ethos that translated itself into his political dealings and policies.

Who really was Carlos P. Garcia to people close to him and to those who have objectively studied his policies, influence and the milieu in which he worked? Would the Philippines been any different without him?

Born on Nov. 4, 1896 in Talibon, Bohol, Carlos Polestico Garcia was known as a poet, teacher, parliamentarian, executive, legislator, constitutionalist, philologist, orator, lawyer, diplomat, statesman and patriot.

After graduating magna cum laude from the Philippine Law School and placing seventh in the bar examinations of 1923, he joined politics. In 1925, he was elected representative of the third district of Bohol.

He became governor for two terms, senator for three terms, and vice president. On March 18, 1957 he took over as president, a day after Magsaysay died in a plane crash on Mt. Manunggal in Asturias, Cebu.

According to Boholano war veteran and retired schools supervisor Gregorio Eronico Sr., who wrote Garcia's complete biography, the late president had been in an "extremely difficult situation" because his predecessor, Magsaysay, was considered a national hero and it was difficult to fill in his shoes.

Eronico wrote that Garcia's personality was completely different from that of Magsaysay's. However, he continued Magsaysay's policies, did not reorganize the government, and was able to work the crowd with his flowery oratory.

'Bard of Bohol'

In the Visayas, people always clamored to hear Garcia recite *"Babayeng Pilipinhon"* (Filipino Woman), his trademark poem that earned for him the titles, "Bard of Bohol" and "Prince of Visayan Poetry." The poem extols the attributes of a Filipina delivered with a flourish.

Jose Ma. Rocha, 82, Garcia's executive assistant, said his boss spoke English and Spanish fluently, and entertained people every time he debated with Manuel Roxas—both switching every now and then from English to Spanish.

It was Garcia's "Filipino First" policy that reportedly brought about a nationalized economy. He pushed for laws that gave priority to Filipinos in owning land, capital, business, trade and industries. Foreigners were allowed only 40-percent equity with the remaining 60 percent belonging to Filipinos.

The same policy encouraged Filipinos to patronize their own products and love all things Filipino. But this policy cost Garcia the reelection of 1961 against Diosdado Macapagal.

"He was a man ahead of his time," said local historian and theater artist Marianito Jose Luspo of the Divine Word College of Tagbilaran.

Luspo said "Filipino First" was not an accepted concept during Garcia's presidency when the Americans were considered gods. "People would say, 'What do you mean, stand on our own? Red China will get us.'"

Garcia wanted to tell the rest of the country that the best way for Filipinos was to veer away from America, said Luspo, but most of the time the president was simply misunderstood and even suspected for his nationalistic views.

Luspo noted that among Garcia's strengths were his foresight and prudence to initiate only projects and policies that were acceptable at that time without sacrificing his principles.

Garcia succeeded in shortening the duration of the lease agreement on US bases in the Philippines from 99 years to 25, renewable after every five years through the Bohlen Serrano Agreement.

He implemented an austerity program to stamp out graft and corruption, and initiated a cultural revival that made the *barong tagalog* and the Bayanihan Dance Troupe world-famous.

Misunderstood

Garcia found, albeit too late, that he had indeed been a misunderstood president. When he lost to Macapagal in the elections, he could not believe it.

According to Eronico, he chose to confine himself to a room with his aides and planned the filing of a protest with the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, citing alleged election fraud committed in at least 30 percent of some 9,000 voting precincts all over the country.

But still, Garcia could not write off Macapagal's majority of 600,000 votes. One of the president's trusted lieutenants offered to "do something about the situation."

Reynald Gatal, 67, a close family friend, remembered the exact words of the losing president: "How can I face the people knowing that I cheated? I will rather accept defeat than do that (cheat). Let us have dignity."

With that, he calmly finished his term and, with decorum, handed the reins of power to Macapagal and his vice president, Emmanuel Pelaez.

The other time that Garcia showed the mettle he was made of was when he ran for president of the 1971 Con-con.

Ten days before the elections, then President Ferdinand Marcos sent emissaries to Garcia, asking him to support the parliamentary system of government as his vehicle for an extension of power.

Marcos promised that he would support Garcia's bid, according to his emissaries, but he also reminded the former president that Macapagal was also supporting the parliamentary system and that he might favor his rival instead.

In his biography, Eronico wrote that Garcia, a man known for his coolness suddenly exploded and "with a resonant and tremulous voice" said:

"Go, tell President Marcos of the message of Garcia. Tell him that Garcia cannot sacrifice his undying faith in the presidential system of government even with the promise of Malacañang's support for his candidacy. He would rather kiss the dust of defeat than compromise his principles. And kindly tell President Marcos that Garcia would not hesitate to expose his intervention in the halls of the constitutional convention should he persist to influence its decision on the form of government."

Eronico wrote that Garcia's decision to reject the Marcos offer was met with open approval by the Con-con delegates who rallied behind his cause. He became convention president on June 11, 1971.

Philippine history could have turned out differently had Garcia not died of a heart attack at the age of 75, three days later.

Middle class to the end

Garcia's half-sister, Mary Garcia Valmoria, 69, remembered her Ingko Carlos as a good *magbababalak* (poet) who lived life honestly and simply, and never abused power for his own gain or gave in to nepotism.

"As you can see, we Garcias still remain middle class. If his three grandchildren are well off, it is because they all work in America," said Mary, who is the same age as the president's only daughter, the late Linda Garcia Campos.

Linda's husband, lawyer Fernando Campos, is director of the President Carlos P. Garcia Foundation.

At the Bohol Museum, Leonora Rama, curator of 15 years, fusses over Garcia's memorabilia, sometimes lamenting how some items have been left to dust in Manila before these were brought to Bohol.

She said Boholanos and their visitors were lucky that some friends and relatives had the foresight to salvage most of the president's material legacy before it got lost in the nooks and crannies of the National Museum.

The provincial and national governments, as well as the foundation, have to remind the people every year of how the "Bard from Bohol" defined "Filipino First" and how he hope to have it ingrained in their hearts.

Sef Gonzales: Behind the baby face . . .

From page A1

What seemed clearer than anything from that meeting was Sef's palpable sense of loneliness. He had friends who had stuck by him, he said, but then there were those who had not.

At the end of our meal, Sef shook my hand and told me he would speak with me further with a view to promoting his version of the story.

He said he inherited his father Teddy's ability to judge character, and he trusted me.

The next time we met, Sef asked me to meet him at his apartment.

The one-bedroom apartment was in a tight-security high-rise building overlooking Chatswood. It was neatly ordered with a few flowers and stuffed toys—obviously gifts—placed on benches. He offered me a glass of water as we spoke again about the pros and cons of him publishing a story in which he wished to plead his innocence.

Between then and our last meeting, amid talks with Sef's then-legal representation, he agreed to tell his side of the story.

On Friday, May 31, I met Sef again at his apartment, photographer in tow. We finally spoke on the record.

He talked about being treated like a criminal, that it was almost like he was leading a life behind bars.

He spoke of his vision of his life—how he had once pictured himself, his father and his son on a fishing boat and how that dream had evaporated. And how he had struggled with that.

We then visited his family's gravesite, where Sef had previously agreed to be photographed.

It was not until we reached the house where his family had been slain that the harsh realities of dealing with the media seemed to take its toll.

He cleared out old, unopened mail stuffed through the letterbox of the family's now-empty home, before unlocking the house.

He flicked silently through old family albums, seeking and finding two pictures which showed a loving, happy and laughing family of four.

There was one on a skiing holiday and another when the family had just moved to Ryde from the Philippines.

Then, The Daily Telegraph photographed Sef at an altar situated in the middle of the family's large home, where his Catholic family members once prayed.

A statue of Mary stood where his mother Loiva prayed with her rosary beads.

He asked for a few minutes alone, covering his face as he sat on the stairwell.

He came out of the home a few minutes later, composed but obviously having shed some tears.

We dropped Sef off near his home two weeks ago.

Last night, he spent in custody, having not applied for bail, his troubles far from over. Countdown to an arrest for murder.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Telegraph, Sef Gonzales claims he is being treated like a criminal. He said: "It's worse than being put behind bars—it's almost like I'm already being treated like a criminal . . . I think it's unfair (people) expect you to act in a particular way, if you don't act that way they judge you. For example, I don't cry, and that's been interpreted in the wrong way . . . I've been told nine out 10 of these cases (family slayings) involve either a family member or someone who knows the family and, just on those statistics alone, people like myself go through that speculation. The unfair thing is that they forget about the one out of 10 who is innocent."

Cops may have airtight case but Pinoy has good lawyers

From page A1

But Gonzales' counsel, Peter Kintominas, is a good criminal lawyer "according to the New South Wales Bar," Cabactulan said.

The Sydney Morning Herald yesterday quoted Kintominas as saying that Gonzales needed to clear his name because he was the sole beneficiary of his parents' $2-million estate.

"He is the beneficiary under the wills of the deceased and it is in his interest to clear his name because once he is acquitted of these charges, he will be able to inherit it," Kintominas said.

Cabactulan said in a long-distance phone interview that the consulate had been "in close coordination" with the Sydney police regarding the case. He said the police could be keeping their evidence against Gonzales in preparation for the criminal proceedings that would start with his arraignment on June 25.

He said he had received information that while the evidence might be circumstantial, "it is strong circumstantial evidence."

Cabactulan said bail was denied Gonzales because of the gravity of his supposed crime—the triple murder on July 10, 2001, of his father Teodoro, 46; his mother Mary, 43; and his sister Clodine, 18.

Gonzales was arrested Thursday at his unit at the high-end Bentleigh Apartments on Katherine Street in Chatswood district near Sydney. He is in police custody and is being held at the Long Bay Remand Center.

"We have yet to receive permission from the Remand Center and from his lawyer to see him . . . He is just under custody and is not in prison with the criminals," Cabactulan said. "Hopefully, we will see him today."

Forensic evidence

In Baguio City, the lawyer sent last year to Sydney by the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the massacre said the results of forensic tests could have bolstered the case against Gonzales.

Lawyer Rickson Chiong, NBI Cordillera director, said Sydney police had focused on the forensic evidence and not on the racial slant that the media had played up. But they did not provide Philippine investigators any theory on the motive of the murders, he said.

"There was no racist hate message (on a wall of the Gonzales home, as was reported by the media). I don't know why it was the focus (of both the Australian and Philippine press)," Chiong told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

Chiong was in Manila on Thursday to receive provisional reports on Gonzales' arrest.

He said he was allowed to participate briefly in last year's investigation, which dealt more with validation procedures for evidence obtained from the Gonzales home on Collins Street in North Ryde, Sydney.

Chiong said the Sydney police informed him of their conclusion days before Gonzales' arrest, although initial evidence last year had already implicated the young man.

"I have yet to see the evidence. They will still send these to me, so I cannot make any conclusion (as yet). The judicial procedures there are very sensitive to information, and since it is a jury system, I don't want to make any remark that would jeopardize the case," he said.

Chiong also said an investigation of the property of the Gonzaleses in Baguio, where they lived before they migrated to Austrlia, was yet to be done.

INQUIRER sources in Baguio said clan members were discussing the implications of Gonzales' arrest *vis a vis* his father's property.

"They can do (the property investigation), but I will need to find out first if the Sydney police need that information," Chiong said.

Surprise

Cabactulan said Gonzales' arrest came as a surprise to the consulate. He said the suspect had been quite cooperative in the police investigation since last year.

"Our main concern here is that justice will be served," Cabactulan said. "We will help (Gonzales) to make sure that he is accorded due process and that his rights are not abridged."

Cabactulan also said that the last time they spoke with Gonzales was during the burial of his family.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Gonzales, with gold wire-rimmed glasses worn on his clean-shaved head, looked every bit the young urban professional he would be once he finished business school in Sydney.

But in handcuffs, he looked like he was losing what remains of his life, the paper said.

In the afternoon, Gonzales faced the Hornsby Local Court with his head bowed. He was reportedly silent through almost the entire procedure that magistrate John McIntosh presided over.

A barely audible "yes" and a little nod were all he had for the court when the magistrate asked if he was Sef Gonzales, the only son of Filipino immigrants Teodoro and Mary Josephine Gonzales and elder brother to Clodine.

An uncle, Joseph Claridades, was in the stands of the courthouse but the Herald said he did not look toward Gonzales as the young man was being read the charges.

The paper quoted lawyer Kintominas as saying that his client would "vigorously contest the allegations."

Filipinos and Australians alike have followed the case like a soap opera, especially after news reports came out that Gonzales was being considered a suspect.

"Police have told all and sundry in six to nine months that they were going to arrest him," Kintominas told the Herald.

But he said Gonzales' arrest might not have been necessary because his client was willing to submit to the Chatswood Police Station if law enforcers had intended to charge him.

The Herald said Kintominas described the charge against Gonzales as "tenuous."

"(My client) has substantial alibis for a large part of the allegations)," the lawyer said.

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Basilan heroine buried

From page A1

celebration led by President Macapagal-Arroyo here on Wednesday—wept with Edibora (not Ediborah) Yap's family and friends as her casket was pushed inside the tomb in front of the Don Jose Torres Memorial Hospital.

Four US soldiers in camouflage carried the white wooden coffin from the nearby St. Peter's Church to its resting place beside the tomb of missionary Don Jose Torres, for whom the hospital was named.

Torres founded Lamitan's 20-year-old church and hospital compound, where Yap had worked before being kidnapped.

"She's a big loss to us. It's not easy to forget how she died," said Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, Lamitan parish priest and Yap's childhood friend.

Nacorda, along with three other diocesan priests, officiated at the emotion-filled requiem Mass for the slain nurse at the St. Peter's Church.

David Pamaran, Yap's elder brother, said that even as she was "gone forever," her family could still not endure the pain brought about by her death.

"I will only be content when I see the culprits behind bars," Pamaran said. "Those responsible for her death should be brought before the bar of justice."

Amid the tears, Yap's youngest child Lawrence William was the picture of innocence.

Apparently still unaware of the magnitude of his loss, the 6-year-old boy was spotted playing with his cousins as his mother's tomb was being sealed.

The 48-year-old nurse was killed along with American missionary Martin Burnham in a clash between their Abu Sayyaf captors and the military in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

The other hostage, Martin Burnham's wife Gracia, was wounded. She has since flown to the United States to rejoin her children.

US SOLDIERS carry the casket of Edibora Yap.

VAL HANDUMON

Amazing Grace

About 300 friends, family members and other residents of this Christian town in predominantly Muslim Basilan packed the community hall to take part in Yap's funeral.

The mourners cried as tearful nurses in white uniforms sang Yap's favorite love song, "Sometimes When We Touch" by Canadian singer Dan Hill, and a small choir sang "Amazing Grace."

Nacorda, who carries a pistol after twice being kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf, prayed for peace and stability on the island. But The Associated Press quoted him as saying: "We will continue protecting ourselves here in Lamitan. We cannot rely on the military. It's already painful. Many have died here in Basilan."

Lt. Col. Brian Hearnsberger, commander of the US Naval Construction Brigade in Lamitan, said it was a "great honor" for them to send a heroine to her final resting place.

Eight of Hearnsberger's men served as pallbearers during the funeral march for Yap.

Pamaran said the family was thankful for the assistance extended by the Americans at the burial.

Hearnsberger said the Americans "truly appreciated" Yap for tending to the Burnhams during their long captivity.

He said they were also offering their expertise in rebuilding the Integrated Provincial Hospital in Isabela City, which, according to Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, would be named in Yap's honor.

"We are willing to do the job," Hearnsberger said.

"However, we cannot commit for the materials."

US Special Forces Maj. Timothy Todaro, one of the four American soldiers who carried Yap's coffin in drizzling rain through a four-block procession, said: "It's a sad day for all of us and hopefully this will be the end of this type of tragedy here in Basilan."

"Our long-term goals for the people of Lamitan and Basilan as a whole are the same things we'd want in our own country, and that is security, peace, prosperity," said Todaro. "That's going to be a long-term objective."

New Tribes Mission

The death of Martin Burnham has not deterred other members of the New Tribes Mission (NTM) from asking to be assigned to high-risk areas in the Philippines.

David Mough, NTM assistant spokesperson, said they were now considering sending more of their missionaries to areas with peace and order problems.

"(Burnham's death) did not discourage other missionaries," Mough told reporters in Manila. "More people have expressed (their intention) to go to the field."

The NTM has been sending missions to 21 countries worldwide to spread the gospel to remote communities.

Mough, however, declined to say how many NTM missionaries were assigned to the Philippines, and where.

Apart from Martin Burnham, three more NTM missionaries were abducted and killed in Colombia.

Mough said that NTM missionaries were "aware of the risks and criminal activity in every country," and that "security in the Philippines is heightened" because of the Abu Sayyaf.

"We take the safety of our missionaries seriously. We will caution them if we feel that their lives are in danger," Mough said.

He declined to mention the areas where NTM missionaries' safety would be reconsidered, but conceded that Zamboanga and Basilan were among them.

On the other hand, missionaries in areas controlled by the communist-led New People's Army are under the mission's "safe monitoring," he said.

Mough also said the Abu Sayyaf's fanaticism did not stop Martin Burnham from spreading the word of God.

He recalled Gracia telling him after her rescue that "Martin was able to share his faith with the Abu Sayyaf."

According to Mough, it was faith that sustained the Burnhams in the jungles of Basilan.

"When we think about Martin, we feel that he didn't give his life for the mission, but for Jesus," Mough said.

He described Martin as "level-headed" and "a very nice guy."

"Nothing seemed to irritate him," Mough said.

This was what Mough had to say about Gracia: "She's very upbeat and is exactly who she was before captivity. She loves the Philippines, and I wouldn't be surprised if she comes back for a visit." ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, AP***

Martin Burnham shot in the back

By Martin P. Marfil

MARTIN Burnham was shot in the back, apparently by the Abu Sayyaf, during the June 7 rescue attempt in Zamboanga del Norte, a military official said yesterday.

But Melchor Rosales, spokesperson for the rescue operation, told reporters that they were "still awaiting" the report from the Armed Forces Southern Command.

Rosales also said the remaining nine-man Abu Sayyaf group was still in the general area of Sirawai. He said 600 members of elite military units were continuing the hunt for the bandits.

The military official assigned with the Department of National Defense said he was able to see an initial report on the operation.

He quoted it as saying that Burnham was shot in the back, apparently by members of the Abu Sayyaf. He said he could not remember how it described the death of Filipino nurse Edibora Yap.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the operation was initiated by five teams of Scout Rangers who spotted five tents set up on both sides of a creek in the outskirts of Sirawai.

He said that the bandits were resting at the time—with some of them in their tents and their guns out of their reach—and that it was raining heavily.

"Only one (four-man) team was able to make a visual sighting as the other teams were behind a heavily forested area," the official said.

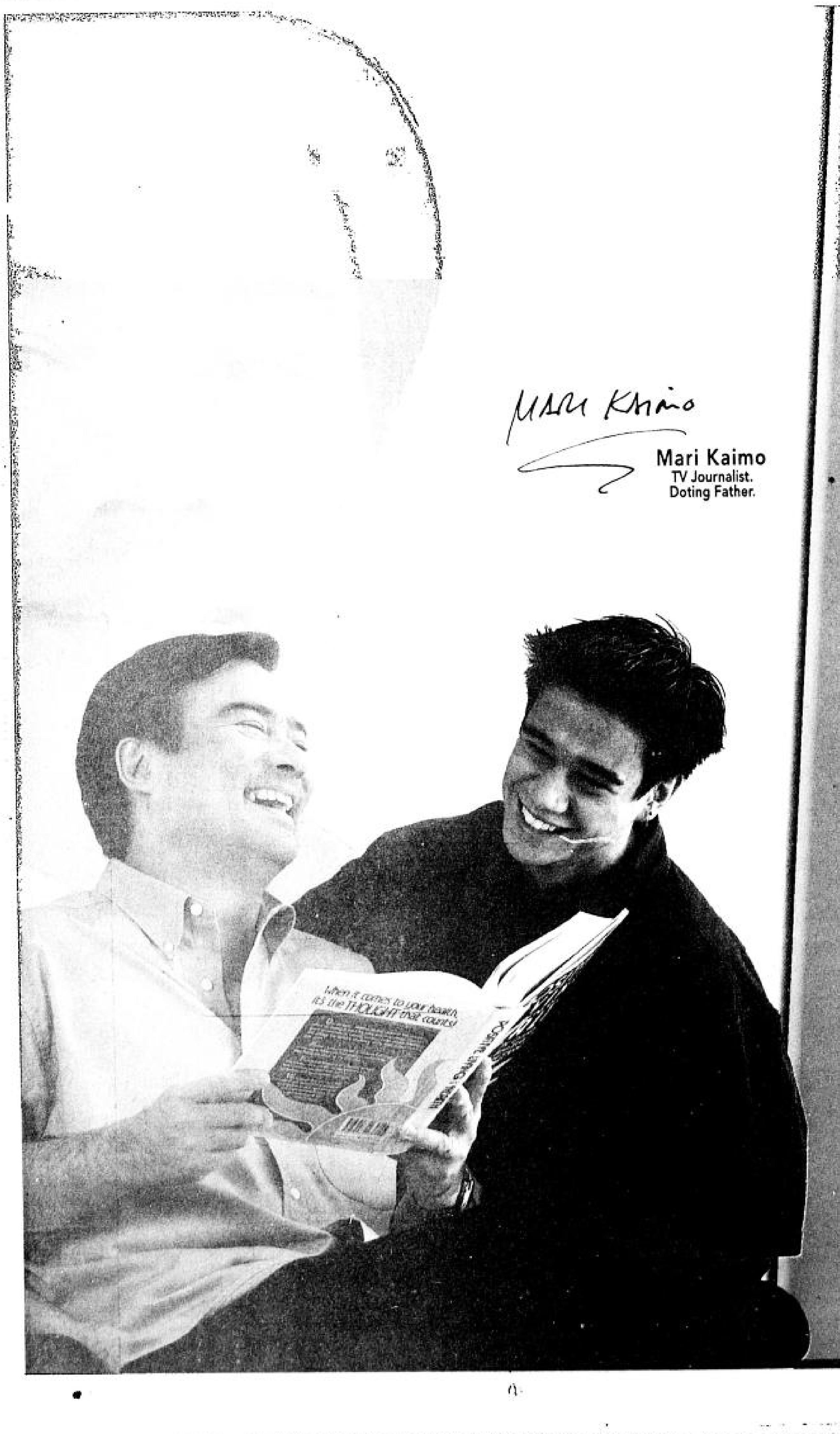
He said that this team was the only one that fired guns, and that the four bandits killed in the volley were in the tent near the team.

The official said the bandits then scampered away, firing their guns, including an M-203 grenade launcher. This resulted in the wounding of some Scout Rangers, he said.

When the firing stopped, the official said, soldiers found Burnham's body covering his wife, Gracia.

Yap's body was recovered in the creek.

"Apparently, the Burnhams tried to escape as they were near the forested area," the official said. "Hostages are usually placed in the middle of an encampment."



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US OPEN

Late birdie powers Tiger to 1-shot lead

1st round scores

67—Tiger Woods

68—Sergio Garcia (Spain)

69—Jeff Maggert, K.J. Choi (Korea), Billy Mayfair, Dudley Hart

70 Padraig Harrington (Ireland), Franklin Langham, Stewart Cink, Phil Mickelson, Nick Faldo (Britain), Steve Lowery

71—Craig Bowden, Tom Lehman, Todd Rose, Thomas Levet (France), Scott Hoch, Jose Maria Olazabal (Spain), Thomas Bjorn (Denmark), Tom Gillis, Davis Love III, Jean Van de Velde (France), Charles Howell III, Robert Karlsson (Sweden)

72—Jesper Parnevik (Sweden), Greg Chalmers (Australia), Paul Stankowski, Bernhard Langer (Germany), Ian Leggatt (Canada), Tom Byrum, Nick Price (Zimbabwe), Rocco Mediate, Steve Stricker, Niclas Fasth (Sweden), Billy Andrade, Steve Flesch, Bob Tway, Len Mattiace, Scott McCarron, Michael Campbell (New Zealand). *Reuters*

FARMINGDALE, New York—Tiger Woods sank a 15-foot putt for birdie at the ninth, his 18th hole, for a three-under-par 67 and a one-shot lead after the US Open's first round on Thursday.

The world number one, attempting to become the first player since Jack Nicklaus, in 1972, to win the first two majors of the year, collected five birdies and two dropped shots on a cool and overcast day.

Sergio Garcia, who fired an opening 68, had led for most of the round before being overhauled by the late-finishing Woods as only six players in the 156-strong field broke par on Bethpage State Park's tough Black Course.

The 22-year-old Spaniard, who holed a 20-foot putt for his final birdie of the day at the long 12th, picked up three shots in all and bogeyed the par-four sixth before finishing at two under.

U.S. Masters champion Woods teed off at the par-four 10th, holed an 18-foot putt from the fringe for birdie at the long 13th and then picked up another shot with a good putt at the short 14th to move to two under.

Although he dropped his first stroke of the round at the par-four 16th after pushing his tee shot into the right rough, he got it back at the 18th by sinking a birdie putt from 20 feet.

Birdie number four followed at the par-four second, where Woods hit his approach to just five feet to move out in front on his own, but he then bogeyed the par-four sixth to slip back into a share of the lead before his telling finish.

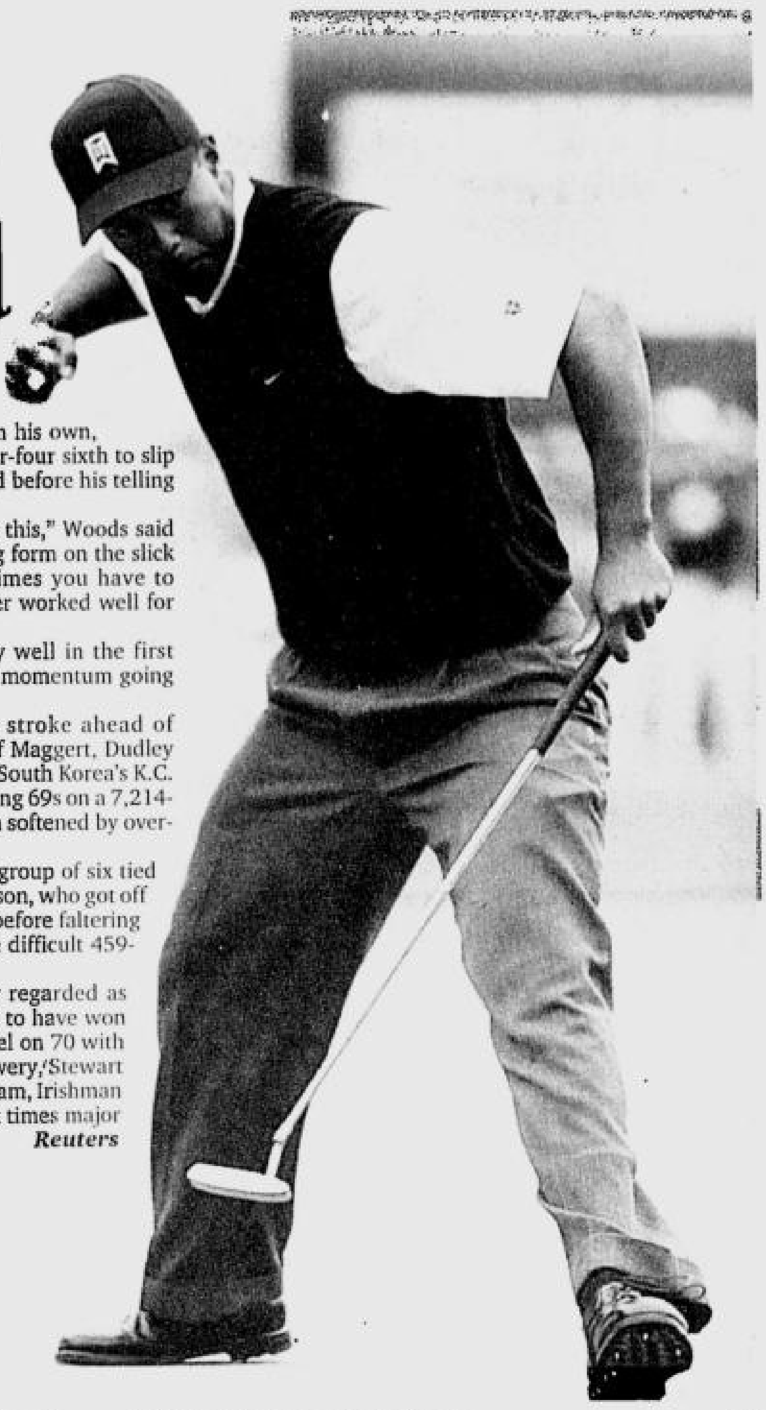
"It's nice to start out like this," Woods said who was in inspired putting form on the slick Bethpage greens. "Sometimes you have to trust yourself and the putter worked well for me today.

"It's always nice to play well in the first round because it gets your momentum going for the rest of the week."

The Spaniard was one stroke ahead of third-placed Americans Jeff Maggert, Dudley Hart and Billy Mayfair and South Korea's K.C. Choi, who produced matching 69s on a 7,214-yard layout which had been softened by overnight rain.

A further shot back in a group of six tied for seventh was Phil Mickelson, who got off to a fast birdie-birdie start before faltering with a double-bogey at the difficult 459-yard 15th.

The left-hander, widely regarded as the best current player not to have won a major, ended the day level on 70 with fellow Americans Steve Lowery, Stewart Cink and Franklin Langham, Irishman Padraig Harrington and six times major winner Nick Faldo. *Reuters*



WOODS pumps his fist after birdieng the ninth hole. AFP

Casas far away with 82

IT will take a big miracle for Cassius Casas to survive the 102nd US Open bloodbath.

Casas followed the route taken by stars like defending champion Retief Goosen, Senior Tour standout Hale Irwin and David Duval, collapsing with a 12-over-par 82 at the dreaded Black course of the Bethpage State Park and was near the bottom of the standings There were only four other players who played worse than Casas out of the 155 starters as the Filipino landed tied for 149th with Irwin, Steve Pate and Scot Parel after his horrendous round. *Jong Arcano*

It's Blu vs Ateneo for crown

By Dennis Eroa

BLAME Arnold Calo for preventing the dream duel between Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and ICTSI-La Salle from happening in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Reunited with his long-lost Cebuano father at the start of the conference, the 6-foot-3 Calo, a former star out of the Manuel Luis Quezon University, delivered the needed points as Blu Sun Power tripped ICTSI-La Salle, 84-77, and entered the finals for the first time since joining the league four years ago.

Game One of the best-of-five championship series between Blu and early finalist Ateneo is scheduled on Monday (June 17) at 5 p.m. at the Makati Coliseum.

Calo drilled in 15 of his 20 points in the fourth period, quelling La Salle's repeated uprisings. He showed nerves of steel, sinking 12 of his 14 free throws on top of four rebounds and three assists.

"I would like to thank team owner Dioceldo Sy and coach Leo Isaac for giving me the chance to prove my worth. I also would like to thank my family for its support," said Calo.

Calo was reunited with his father, whom he has not seen in more than 15 years, during Blu's triumphant campaign in the inaugural PBL-Cebu Basketball Federation in Cebu during the pre-season.

BLU 84—Calo 20, De la Cuesta 18, Dimaunahan 11, Legaspi 9, Codamon 7, Machica 6, Gatumbato 6, Roldan 4, Latoreno 3.

LA SALLE 77—Cortez 20, Ramos 11, Cuan 9, Yap 8, Wilson 8, Uy 6, Franco 5, Sta Maria 4, Daep 2, Lanete 2, Zamora 0, Magsumbol 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 46-41, 58-59, 84-77.

Shaq factor

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THERE were five sets of NBA title "three-peats" and six 4-0 NBA Finals sweeps in the past. But in whitewashing the inexperienced New Jersey Nets in this year's NBA championship series, the LA Lakers became the first team in league history to score a title "three-peat" with a four-game sweep of the NBA Finals.

It was the Lakers' first 4-0 NBA Finals victory in franchise history and the second title "three-peat" in franchise history, the first coming in 1952-54 when the club was still based in Minneapolis.

Here is one of the reasons why the Lakers won and the Nets lost.

1. The Shaq factor. O'Neal was unstoppable in the four-game series with averages of 36.3 points (his 145 total—36-40-35-34—set an all-time NBA Finals record for a four-game series, far outdistancing the old mark of 131 set by Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon in 1995 against Shaq when the latter was still with Orlando), 12.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.75 blocked shots and shooting percentages of .595 (50-of-84) from the field and .662 (45-of-68), posting new all-time NBA Finals marks for most free throws made and attempted). The mammoth 7-1, 350-pounder manhandled the Nets' trio of centers—Todd MacCulloch, Aaron Williams and Jason Collins—who have yet to learn the art of flopping (just ask Sacramento's Vlade Divac) and complaining (they accepted their fouls meekly without aggressively challenging the referees' calls).

Garcia shares Rotary tilt top spot

NEWLY crowned national seniors champion Richie Garcia and Jerusalem Vercide fired the maximum 42 points to share the individual lead even as Bacolod's host teams expectedly snatched the top two positions at the start Thursday of the southern leg of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) southern leg in Bacolod City.

Bacolod Marapara 2 had a measly two-point lead over Garcia's Bacolod South in the tourney that stakes, among others, a Rolex watch worth $5,000 (P250,000) as a hole-in-one prize.

Marapara 2 had 148 points against the Bacolod South's 146. East Rizal was not too far behind at 143.

The event is sponsored chiefly by Taylor Made Adidas, PLDT, Cebu Pacific and Casino Filipino L'Fisher Hotel together with RGFFP chairman Bimbo Salazar's La Salle Bacolod. High School Batch '67 will host tonight's awarding ceremonies. Other supporters are Asahi Glass, General Nutrition Centers, Menzi&Co. and PDG Nemesio Peralta.

As more than 200 swinging Rotarians got busy with the battle for division honors, caddies from the two host courses had a heated battle for the Final Four slots slated today with Marapara entries dominating action.

Qualifying for the final stage of the inaugural RGFFP All-Negros Caddies Championship are Dodoy Espueta, Joey Isedenio and Ramon Ortega from Marapara and Edmund Pinson from Binitin.

The finalists will dispute merchandise items in the 18-hole finale.

'Sagupaan Hammer' bags cocker award

SABONG idol Patrick Antonio's Sagupaan Hammer entry, now a byword in the national cockfighting circuit, lived up to its stellar billing by captures the prestigious 2002 United Cockers Association of the Philippines Cocker of the Year award recently at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sagupaan Hammer amassed a whopping total of 70.5 points in 15 Ucap-sponsored derbies (13 local and two international events), comfortably ahead of first runner-up Blue Blade JBB (61.5) of Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes and second runner-up PE San Pablo Hammer (59.5) of Pol Estrellado.

It was the fourth Cocker of the Year title for Antonio, a solid testament to Team Sagupaan's proven methods in bloodlines selection, training, feeding and conditioning.

"From the time that I began this passion for gamefowl breeding and cockfighting way back in 1983, I started on the right track by organizing a formidable team. More than anything else, team effort, dedication and cooperation are the secrets to success," Antonio said.

Antonio acknowledged the members of the formidable Team Sagupaan, composed of chief handler Ateng Esguerra, assistant handler Steve Esguerra, Snooky Malabanan, Gong Alingalin, gaffer Noli Estrellado, chief nutritionist Abet de Castro, farm manager Jorge Sales and sons Tony and Patrick Antonio Jr.

MP Turbo sparkles

THE GULF Oil-zed-MP Turbo Racing Team garnered second and third place finishes in the Petron Blaze Super Saloon races in Subic recently to emerge as the most consistent challenger for the yearly championship honors.

The team is supported by the lubricants specialist Gulf Oil, world's biggest mobile services provider zed, Abante newspaper, EBC Brakes, Yehey.com, Racegear F1 store, Rainforest Mineral Water, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, ATI Diesel Engines, Francisco Motors Corp., Universal Motors Corp., BLTBCO and race shop MP Turbo.

Team leader and Baguio driver Carlos Anton took second place in the morning's races when penalties were meted out to offending drivers that clipped the new bus stop corner in the raceway.

It was a hard-fought race that saw championship leader Jody Coseteng getting hounded by PNTCC campaigner Jojo Silverio all the way. Clipping the tires and incurring penalties were Kookie Ramirez and Mike Aguilar.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Joaqi 2. Armee's Hope
Race 2—1. St. Emilion 2. Michael's Way 3. Lucky Strike 4. Fortune Maker
Race 3—1. Kathy Rose 2. Ocean Friend 3. Al's Princess
Race 4—1. Stradivarius 2. Charmingly Chit 3. Champs Elysees 4. That's My Tiger
Race 5—1. Valiant Queen 2. Morning After 3. Batang Pier 4. Rock's Dragon
Race 6—1. Princess Malinda 2. Free Entrance 3. Respect the Ace 4. Worth Ur While/Gigi's Gold 5. King Size
Race 7—1. Be Quiet 2. High Roller 3. Sparkling Sky
Race 8—1. Guts Pleaser 2. Flying Strike 3. Remarkable
Race 9—1. Bold Lucky 2. Golden Issue 3. Explorer 4. Express Strike 5. Best of Times
Race 10—1. Replica 2.Day and Night 3. Foreign Exchange
Race 11—1. Gintong Lahi 2.Easy Rider 3. Action Mark 4.T Square 5. Laguna Gold
Race 12—1. Tender Value/Happy Return 2. Silver Print 3. Mighty Dragon
Race 13—1. Great Hill 2. Ganda 3. Dedicated 4. Best Lover 5. Crisel Joy 6. The Painter

German spanks Sampras

HALLE, Germany—Pete Sampras' hopes of another Wimbledon crown took a big blow Thursday when Germany's Nicolas Kiefer routed the former No. 1 in two sets at the Gerry Weber Open.

Kiefer needed just over an hour to convert his third match point and win 6-3, 6-4 against Sampras, mired in the deepest slump of his career at the $510,000 Wimbledon warmup.

"I needed to do well here. This is a big week - it was very important I reach the final or win here," a discouraged Sampras said.

Still, the 30-year-old Sampras insisted his career isn't nearing an end despite the latest setback 10 days before Wimbledon, his showcase event. *AP*

Detroit prevails

DETROIT— The Detroit Red Wings and coach Scotty Bowman won the Stanley Cup they were supposed to win, then came the surprise—Bowman upstaged his players by skating off into retirement.

Bowman, who always had the last word in an unparalleled coaching career, carried the trophy as he glided around the ice in a victory lap after the Red Wings beat Carolina 3-1 Thursday night in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup finals.

It was a night for firsts — and lasts. The Red Wings won their 10th Stanley Cup in a season they dominated from start to finish, Bowman won his record ninth title, and future Hall of Famers Dominik Hasek and Luc Robitaille each won their first championship.

'War' unfolds at C. Filipino

DENNIS Laurente aims to avenge his defeat to Indonesia's Ferdinan, while Fernando Sagrado will go for a knockout inside five rounds against Australian Jeff Malcolm when they step into the ring in the "War at the Casino" today starting at 5 p.m. at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

The slugfest, promoted by Johnny Elorde, is sponsored by Pagcor, PCSO, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Family Rubbing Alcohol, PLDT Business Solutions, Elorde Sporting Goods, Bai & Mig Party Favors and Elorde Sports Center.

Laurente, the Oriental and Pacific lightweight champion, will go all out for a win against Ferdinan, who dealt him his very first defeat as a pro last year in Jakarta.

But it will be a close fight between the Filipino OPBF champion and the Indonesian challenger, with Laurente, 24, carrying a ring record of 17-2-2 with 10 knockouts against Ferdinan, 23, who has 15-1-1 also with 10 knockouts.

Sagrado, on the other hand, vowed to end the career of Malcolm.

Tickets are pegged at P200, P300, P500, P1,000 and P2,000 and are available at the Elorde Sports Center and Casino Filipino gates.

JOHNNY Elorde (middle) with (from left) Fernando Sagrado, Dennis Laurente, Ferdinan and Jeff Malcolm.

3 on 3 blasts off today in Bacolod

BUDDING high school basketball stars take centerstage today when the Nike 3 on 3—the country's longest-running and most prestigious cage tournament of its kind—kicks off at the Tay Tung High School in Bacolod City.

Nike Philippines, which began this unique event in 1993, looks forward to another exciting 3 on 3 season, which will also have stops in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Pampanga, Baguio and Manila.

A total of 20 teams will pit guts and skills in the initial Bacolod leg, led by reigning titlist Colegio de San Agustin, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod Tay Tung High, University of Negros Occidental Recoletos, St. Benilde Integrated School, St. John Institute, Tangub Christian Academy and West Negros College.

"This is where the dreams of many basketball players begin," said Tanny Gonzalez, Nike 3 on 3 tournament director.

Nike Sports and Marketing Manager Auty Villarama and Gonzalez, together with Nike Sports Marketing Coordinator Rely San Agustin, Miguel Minana, president of Themeworks, made ocular inspections of the six venues.

Major sponsor of the Nike 3 on 3 is High Endurance by Old Spice while participating sponsors are Gatorade, Absolute Drinking Water, SM Supermalls, Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, Toby's, Olympic Village and Royal Sporting House, Robinson's Department Stores, Olympic World and SM Department Stores.

Area winners will receive an impressive prize package, which includes custom-made medals for the players and coach, carrying bags with Nike giveaways and Nike footwear and apparel for the national finals.

adidas

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GAME SCHEDULE

A. Regional Eliminations

Luzon
June 15-16
Burnham Park
Baguio City

NCR
June 29-30
SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

Mindanao
July 13-14
Gaisano Mall
Davao City

Visayas
August 3-4
SM Cebu
Cebu City

B. National Finals
August 17-18
SM Cebu

C. Asian Finals
August 29-Sept. 1
Shanghai, China

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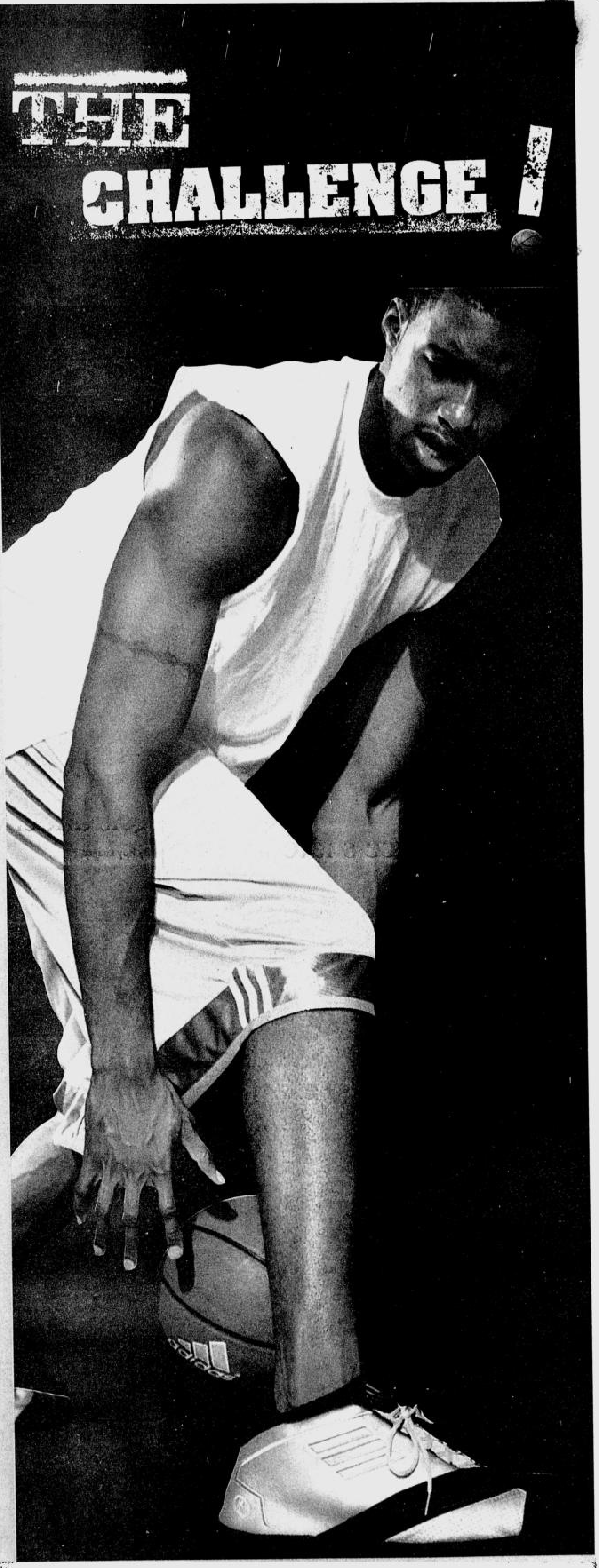
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Baguio hosts Streetball Challenge

THE adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 kicks off hostilities today and tomorrow in Baguio City for the Northern Luzon eliminations. The competition then goes to the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on June 29 and 30 for the Metro Manila matches, followed by the Mindanao clashes on July 13 and 14 in Davao City, and the Visayas playoffs on Aug. 3 and 4 in Cebu City.

HISTORIC PLACE

Japan reaches 2nd round

HIDETOSHI Nakata of Japan (bottom right) slips past the defense of Tunisia's Kaies Ghodhbane (10) and Hatem Trabelsi (6) to score Japan's second goal. Japan prevailed, 2-0, to advance to the second round. AP

South Korea, US also advance

OSAKA, Japan—Japan gained a historic place in the World Cup's final round of 16 with a 2-0 victory Friday over Tunisia as the co-hosts advanced on second-half goals by substitute Hiroaki Morishima and midfield playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata.

Appearing in only its second World Cup finals, Japan would have advanced with only a draw - and perhaps a loss. The victory put it atop Group H and avoided a second-round match with four-time champion Brazil. Instead, Japan will face Turkey on Tuesday.

Brazil, winner of Group C, will face Belgium, No. 2 in Group H, on Monday. Belgium defeated Russia 3-2 in Friday's other Group H match.

Coming in to start the second half, Morishima took advantage of poor Tunisian defending in the 48th minute. As the ball rolled free in the area, Morishima got a clear right-footed shot off and drove it behind Tunisian keeper Ali Boumnijel from 10 meters (yards).

Nakata, Japan's acknowledged star, scored his first goal of the tournament in the 75th, taking a cross from Daisuke Ichikawa and heading it home from seven meters (yards).

"I'm very proud," said Japan's French coach Philippe Troussier. "You can see the blue fever. We have been at our best in the tournament. We can be very proud of the performance of the players."

In Inchon, South Korea, co-hosts South Korea reached the second round of the World Cup for the first time when they beat nine-man Portugal 1-0 and dumped them out of the tournament.

A 71st minute goal from Park Ji-Sung sent the stadium into raptures and put the Koreans in the last 16 with co-hosts Japan, the first time the two teams from Asia have made it through the first round.

Portugal, one of the pre-tournament favorites, went out of the competition with just one victory, while the United States scrambled into the second round despite losing 3-1 to Poland.

Portugal players left the pitch in tears.

In Shizuoka, Japan, Belgium scored two goals in a nerve-wracking 12 minutes to scrape through the next phase.

Vladimir Beschhastnykh converted a second-half equalizer after Belgium had gone ahead in the seventh minute on a brilliant free kick from Johan Walem, and it looked like the Russians would advance.

But substitute Wesley Sonck restored Belgium's advantage in the 78th minute and Marc Wilmots added the third goal four minutes later. ***AP,Reuter***

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
Denmark	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Senegal	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
France	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Group B							
Spain	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
South Africa	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Group C							
Brazil	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Costa Rica	3	1	1	0	5	6	4
China	3	0	0	3	0	9	0
Group D							
Korea	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
USA	3	1	1	1	5	6	5
Portugal	3	1	0	2	6	4	3
Poland	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Group E							
Germany	3	2	1	0	11	1	7
Rep Ireland	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	0	12	0
Group F							
Sweden	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
England	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Argentina	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Nigeria	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Group G							
Mexico	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Italy	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Croatia	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Ecuador	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Group H							
Japan	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Belgium	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Russia	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Lightning soccer on

THE 1ST adidas lightning football competition returns to Visayas with games firing off at the University of St. La Salle at 8:30 a.m. today.

Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad, adidas Philippines apparel product manager Mel Belgado and footwear product manager Mike Ignacio are expected to grace the inaugural rites of the tournament sponsored by adidas Philippines in cooperation with Fuji films and Mcdonalds and supported by Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Zed, HSBC, Sony records, Dream Broadcasting, 99.5 RT and 89.9 DWTM.

"We expect exciting games at the University of St. La Salle as the teams vie for the honor of representing their region in the 1st adidas lightning foootball national finals," said tournament director Jojo Rodriguez.

The Bacolod champions will square off with other regional winners in the 1st adidas lightning football scheduled at the Ateneo De Manila football grounds on June 30. The adidas lightning football coincides with the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

France's fate

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LIFE is full of ironies.

Take the case of France. The gallant World Cup champion four years ago has just suffered the most embarrassing defeat in the event's 72-year history. It never won a game in its group on the way to getting eliminated, the first defending champion since 1930 to absorb that ignominy. Cruel.

Pele, the Brazilian legend, has predicted France to make it to the Final Four. Virtually the entire world believed in Pele. Not surprising. Pele is the greatest football player of all time.

The ouster of France did not surprise me.

One, Zidane, the hero of France's victory in 1998, got injured days before the start of the World Cup during practice in Korea. You don't expect to win games minus your No. 1 player. A miracle was what France needed to advance to the Round of 16. Alas, the gods of football weren't on France's side this time.

But my second reason should take the cake. It's this: That the scheduling of the World Cup of football has outlived its time.

Four years is too long to wait. Your stars now won't be as good four years for now. Humans are like machines. Years of playing contribute much to their wear and tear.

Before the World Cup started, France virtually dominated European football. Its players, including Zidane, were thoroughly subjected to grueling matches against the best of the game. Do you know that the football field is the biggest field of all, not to include golf?

But you don't run in golf, which explains the fact that golfers don't easily tire.

In football, you are in the move practically all of 90 minutes, except the goalie.

In the World Cup, you can't really preserve your heroes for the next World Cup. Unless your heroes today are 20 years old, 22, or 23 maybe, you can't expect much anymore from players older than them after four years. Isn't Zidane 28 already?

For football players, the four years leading to the next World Cup is action-filled. Bruising games, not to mention the almost daily spartan training, can knock down even those with bodies resembling that of Lennox's or Schwarzenegger's. The wear and tear of competition matches will take their toll on even the toughest soccer players. The world is not only changing. It has already changed decades ago.

But alas, the World Cup leaders seem to still enjoy living in the Jurassic Age.

It's time to change, fellas. Hold the World Cup once in two years. Everyone else has done it. Chess. Athletics. Swimming. Golf.

France waited four years to happen. Again. It did not happen.

My sympathies to France, whose fate was much too cruel to accept.

MBA Nat'l Conference gets under way today

By Roy Luarca

GAMES TODAY
(Olongapo Convention Center)
3 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Pampanga
6 p.m.—Batangas vs Olongapo

THE OLONGAPO Volunteers want revenge when they clash with the LBC Batangas Blades at 6 p.m. today in the inaugurals of the MBA National Conference at the Olongapo Convention Center.

LBC Batangas deprived Olongapo a championship stint in the First Conference, prevailing in their knockout game at the same venue.

Now, the Volunteers get the chance to redeem themselves and prove that they really have the capability to contend for the title.

Osaka Pangasinan and Pampanga tangle in the 3 p.m. opener, with the Waves raring to make a splash after a disappointing stint in the First Conference.

The celebrated tandem of Chris Clay and Rommel Adducul are again expected to lead the Waves, who missed the semifinals despite having one of the strongest rosters in the Northern Conference.

The Stars are no pushovers, of course, after getting proven scorers in Roland Pascual, Paeng Santos and Celino Cruz, who'll be seeing action for the Stars after the PBL championships. Their bid to get 6-foot-6 Ryzal Castro, however, failed.

Allan Trinidad, newly designated mentor of the Stars, said that even without Castro they are ready to contend.

St. Francis faces tough task

DEFENDING champion and National Inter-Collegiate Champion St. Francis College of Assisi will have its hands full when the Spring Cooking Oil-3rd Asian University Basketball championships blasts off starting June 16 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

St. Francis will face formidable foes in Yon Sei University of Korea and Chinese Taipei National University of Arts during the week-long cagefest featuring the best basketball-playing colleges and universities in Asia.

Pitting guts and skills with these Asian teams, aside from St. Francis of Assisi, are San Sebastian College and University of Sto. Tomas. The Stags and the Growling Tigers qualified for the AUBC by virtue of their 1-2 finish in the recent Sen. Ambrosio Padilla Cup.

The Stags clinched a slot to the AUBC by topping the National Students Basketball Championships in Roxas City.

"The Doves will be in for a tough time defending its title," said president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal, of the organizing Basketball Association of the Philippines.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Second Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

US Open, Third Round at tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals—LA Lakers vs New Jersey Nets, Game 4 at 8:30 p.m. (r) on NBN 4

NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

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*Promo period: May 1 to June 15, 2002. See the Great Globe Prepaid ADDvantage promo posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1684, Series of 2002.

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Doctor kidnapped in Valenzuela /A27 On Target: Is Arroyo meddling in the Lacson case? /A27

NEW MMDA Chair Fernando (right) greets predecessor Abalos, who now heads the Comelec. ERIK ARAZAS

Fernando lists his priorities

By Carlito Pablo

ENSURING order when classes open on June 17, reducing traffic, and finding solutions to the garbage problem are the immediate priorities of new Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who took

FERNANDO/ A27

P1-million reward for capture of 'Ativan'

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL police yesterday put up a P200,000-reward for each of the five suspected members of the Ativan Gang which has been victimizing foreigners, even as more foreigners fell prey to the syndicate.

"Anyone who provides any information leading to the arrest of each of the suspects will be rewarded with P200,000," or a total of P1 million for all five suspects, said Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

He released the photographs of the suspects—three men and two women—but declined to identify them pending their arrest.

The suspects include one alias Robert Sambili, believed to be the leader of the Ativan Gang, who was tagged in last week's abduction and killing of the Korean Embassy's third secretary Chung Young-ho.

Gualberto said the suspects were arrested two years ago but they posted bail.

"These are the suspects who go around the Ortigas area (in Mandaluyong), Makati and

ATIVAN/ A27

Pasay cops get tongue-lashing as probe starts

By Christian V. Esguerra

PASAY policemen who bungled a May 31 hostage rescue operation got a tongue-lashing at the start of their preliminary investigation yesterday.

Prosecutor Rolando Abrazaldo blew his top when most of the 21 respondents either came in late or were not in police uniform.

"Why are you not in uniform?" Abrazaldo asked the officers who could only bow their heads in shame. "Isn't it a basic rule that you have to be in uniform?"

Abrazaldo singled out one policeman who was sweating in a white shirt inside the packed prosecutor's office.

"If I could have my way, I would have you arrested for vagrancy," he told the policeman. "You have to show that you're a policeman."

Some of the officers said they did not wear their uniforms because they have already been suspended for 90 days for allegedly mishandling the hostage incident where 4-year-old Dexter Balala and his captor, Diomedes Talvo, were killed.

PASAY COPS/ A27

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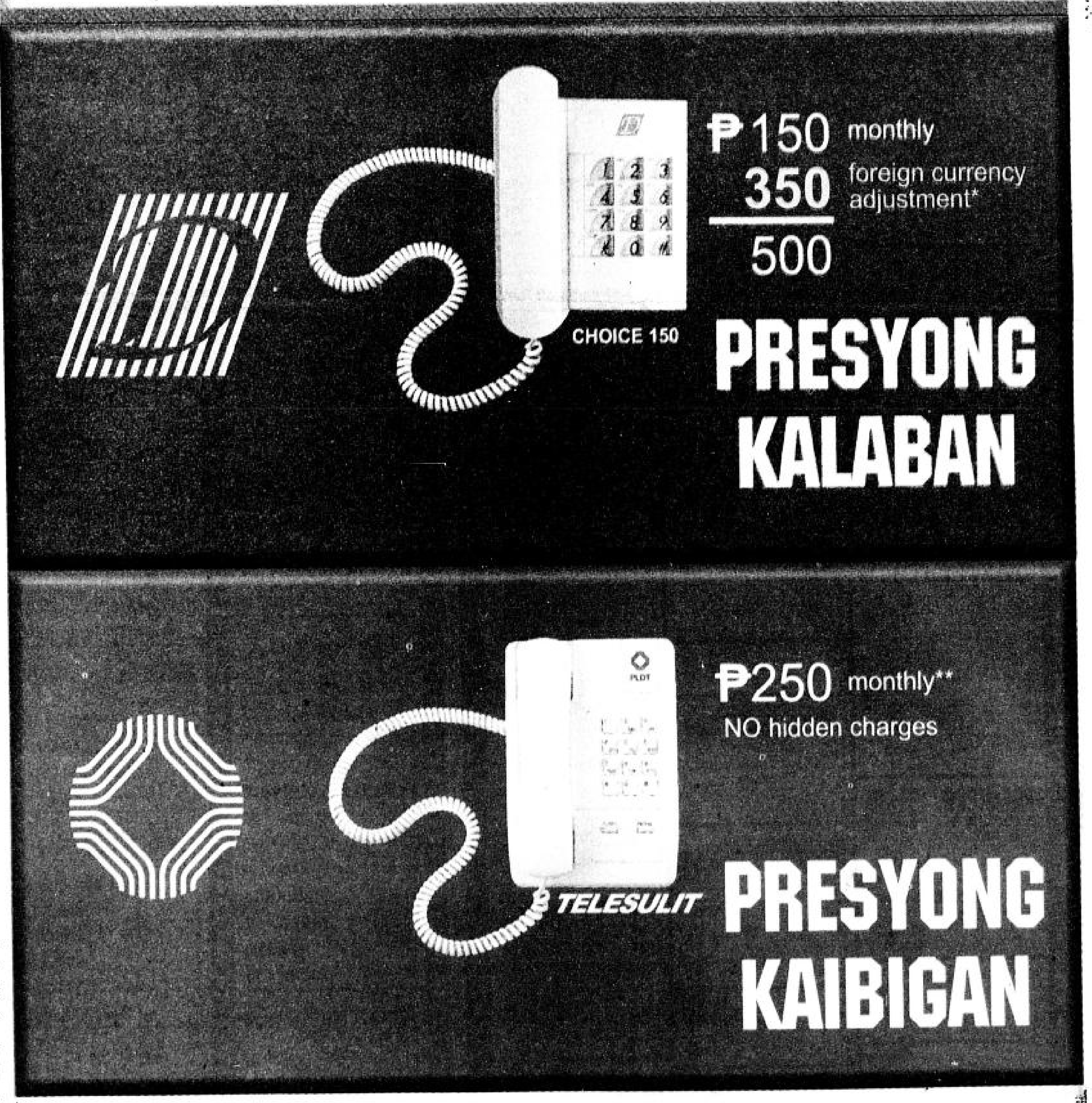

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3 cops accused of beating 2

By Agnes E. Donato

THREE policemen and a civilian agent are facing criminal charges for allegedly beating and injuring two young men for no apparent reason in Quezon City last Monday.

Charged with frustrated homicide, serious physical injuries, illegal arrest and illegal detention were PO3 Zaldy Azama, PO2 Reynaldo Labon, PO2 Lungerm Lamacano, and Wilfredo Ocampo. They are from a Central Police District precinct in Batasan Hills.

The charges were filed by John Suba, 20, and Ryron Mutug, 17, both of IBP Road, Batasan Hills.

In their complaint, Suba and Mutug said the three policemen and Ocampo suddenly fired at them while they were walking along Sampaguita Road in Batasan Hills at about 1 p.m. on June 10. Suba was hit in the right leg.

The policemen then brought them to a police precinct in front of the Sandiganbayan Centennial Building on Commonwealth Avenue, where they beat up Mutug while Suba was left bleeding in a tricycle outside, the young men said.

After almost an hour, the policemen released them without filing any charges against them, the pair said. It was only then that Suba was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

The two said the policemen could have been under the influence of illegal drugs.

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4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	MAGKAPATID
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	MAGKAPATID
8	RESIDENT EVIL
9	SUPER B
10	CASS & CARY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	MAMASAN
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3	CASS & CARY
4	MAGKAPATID
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6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
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8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
11	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
12	DRAGONFLY

SM CITY MANILA
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6	MAGKAPATID
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11	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
12	DISKARTE

SM MEGAMALL
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2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3	DRAGONFLY
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5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8	MAMASAN
9	DISKARTE
10	MAGKAPATID
11	SUPER B
12	MAGKAPATID

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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10	MAGKAPATID

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3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	CASS & CARY
6	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
7	SUPER B
8	MAGKAPATID

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1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	CLOSED
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M LOVE
6	MAGKAPATID
7	CLOSED
8	PANIC ROOM

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6	SUPER B

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3	DISKARTE
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B

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Is Arroyo meddling in the Lacson case?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF NOT for Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya's bragging, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo would not have been dragged into the alleged demolition plot against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson is accusing the First Couple of taking part in a supposed plot to destroy him. The senator's imagination is running wild, for how could one destroy what has already been destroyed?

Here's the story I was able to piece together about that controversial meeting on May 31. That meeting was convened by Lacson's personal enemies to discuss how they could help the government strengthen the prosecution side in the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case where Lacson is one of the respondents.

* * *

Land Transportation Office chief Roberto Lastimoso called the meeting. Lastimoso, former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), was a victim of Lacson's intrigues when Lacson was former President Erap's fair-haired boy. Lacson persuaded Erap to fire Lastimoso as PNP chief by feeding the always drunk, and therefore easily swayed, president with lies.

That meeting was also attended by Lacson's bitter enemies: Berroya, who was convicted of kidnapping and imprisoned for four years, no thanks to Lacson; retired Chief Supt. Dictador Alqueza, whose son Lacson wrongly implicated in the murders of two University of the Philippines students, one of whom was gang-raped; Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former Lacson ally-turned government state witness; lawyer Arno Sanidad, private prosecutor in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

I was supposed to be in that meeting, but I had to beg off because of my heavy workload. I, too, am a victim of Lacson's character assassination.

* * *

Another participant in that meeting was lawyer Godwyn Valdez who volunteered his services as a witness against Lacson. Valdez turned out to be Lacson's mole in that meeting. It was he who told the senator what transpired in the meeting.

Here's how Valdez dragged Mr. Arroyo's name in that meeting when the poor guy didn't even know that a meeting of that sort was going on:

As the conference wore on, some alcoholic drinks were served and naturally inhibitions flew out the window.

* * *

Berroya, already tipsy, called the First Gentleman on his cell phone to talk about the weather and other matters completely unrelated to the meeting.

Apparently, Berroya just wanted everyone else in the room to know that he was talking to the husband of the president of the republic. He talked aloud. He mentioned that he was in a get-together with Lastimoso, calling his upperclassman at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) by his first name instead of the expected "Sir Bobby" that PMAers are accustomed to addressing their superiors.

"Si Mike *ba iyan? Kakausapin ko dahil* classmates *kami niyan sa* Ateneo (Is that Mike? Let me talk to him because he was my classmate at the Ateneo)," another braggart in that meeting said. *Nagyabangan na po!*

The guy who asked to talk to Arroyo was Godwyn Valdez.

* * *

It was only then that Arroyo learned about the meeting's agenda because both Berroya and Valdez told him about it.

Now, why should Lacson accuse Mike Arroyo of "meddling" in the government's bid to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case just because he happened to be talking over the phone with one of the meeting participants while it was going on?

To repeat, the conversation between Berroya and Arroyo was at first completely unrelated to the meeting at hand.

* * *

Berroya is my friend, but I'd like to give him this unsolicited advice: He should draw the line between being a friend and being a subordinate to Mike Arroyo.

True, Mike and Rey are good friends, but must Berroya display that friendship like a congressional medal of honor?

A lot of people, mostly mutual friends of both Arroyo and Berroya, have noticed that the police general does not defer to the Malacañang tenant. They are turned off by his public display of fraternizing with the First Gentleman. Berroya calls Arroyo "*pare*" in public.

* * *

Of course, Mike Arroyo doesn't mind. He's not particular about how people call him— whether it's Mike, Sir, FG (for First Gentleman), Boss, or *pare*.

Pero, Rey, *ipakita mo naman ang paggalang kay* Mike when you're both in public. Perhaps "Sir" will suffice. For a PMAer, you've forgotten courtesy.

In private, you can call him by any name. That's friendship.

But you should distinguish between friendship and deference. Your friend, Jose Miguel Arroyo, happens to be the husband of your commander-in-chief and he should be given due respect in public.

* * *

I would like to condole with my high school classmate, Chit Elemos, for the death of her husband, Atty. Antonio A. Elemos. Antonio was cancer-stricken.

The body lies at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be tomorrow, June 16, at the Manila Memorial Park.

Doctor kidnapped in Valenzuela

By Tina Santos

THE VALENZUELA City police are hunting down three men who abducted a businesswoman-doctor and seriously injured her driver Thursday night.

Dr. Charmaine Ong, daughter of the owner of the CDO factory outlet on BBB Marulas, Valenzuela, was kidnapped while her driver, Mateo Cahilig Jr. 37, of San Miguel Street, Payatas, Quezon City, was shot in the stomach and left arm, police said.

Cahilig was first taken to the Fatima Medical Center before he was transferred to the Manila Central University Hospital, said Valenzuela City police chief Senior Supt. Leopoldo Ureña.

The three armed men came up from behind Ong, who had just emerged from her clinic at the CDO factory, and ordered her to get in her Mitsubishi Galant (TSC-851) about 7:15 p.m., Ureña said.

The suspects disarmed CDO security guard Jaime Ontoy, who was accompanying Ong at the time, Ureña said.

Ong's secretary was also with the doctor, but she managed to elude the suspects, police said.

When Cahilig tried to fight back, one of the suspects shot him in the stomach and left arm. The suspects then dragged him out of the car, shoved Ong and Ontoy in the vehicle and sped away, Ureña said.

Witnesses told police they noticed the three men earlier that evening and they seemed to be waiting for someone.

Police conducted pursuit operations and found Ong's car abandoned by the gate of London Tech University Hill subdivision in Caloocan City.

Police found Ontoy handcuffed inside the abandoned car, Ureña said.

Ontoy told police that the suspects fled on board a red Toyota car and a green Nissan Pajero, which were parked in front of the Caloocan subdivision.

Ureña said they already have witnesses who can identify the suspects. They describe one of the suspects as 40 to 45 years, of medium build and with dark complexion.

Ureña said police are now investigating whether an ongoing labor dispute at the CDO factory triggered the abduction of the factory owner's daughter.

He said the factory workers wanted to hold a strike but they were denied permission by the labor department.

Fernando lists his . . .

From page A25

his oath of office yesterday in Malacañang.

Fernando, former mayor of Marikina City which he turned into one of the country's cleanest and greenest cities, said he is supposed to assume office on Monday but he has asked permission from outgoing MMDA chair and incoming Commission on Elections chief Benjamin Abalos Sr. to meet traffic officers so they can map out plans for the opening of classes.

Fernando said he will also review the effectiveness of the MMDA's unified vehicle volume reduction scheme which bans cars on certain weekdays depending on the ending of their plate numbers.

"It has been implemented for quite a time and we need to review it so we can see what is the effective way to reduce traffic," he said.

Fernando said that finding solutions to Metro Manila's garbage mess is also one of his top priorities.

He said that since 1986, he has been exploring the concept of transporting garbage out of the metropolis by rail and disposing it in a 2,000-hectare land.

He said he is open to the idea of using incinerators, whose use is banned by the Clean Air Act, "as long as this is in accordance with regulations to ensure the people's health."

Asked for his position on a recent Supreme Court ruling which upheld the validity of the contract that would allow Jancom Environmental Corp. to put up a garbage incineration facility, Fernando said: "That has been decided but the question is whether local governments can afford the fees.

"Any contract, even if valid, will not work if it is not affordable," he added. "That's how I look at the issue."

'No more delays'

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday asked the petroleum companies using the Pandacan oil depot to submit their formal proposals regarding the facility's closure even as he stressed that the firms should get out of Pandacan as soon as possible.

Atienza said in radio interviews that the sooner the oil companies left Pandacan, the better it would be. He said Petron, Caltex and Shell are only now negotiating with the city government on the fate of the facility.

"At least they've quit saying that it cannot be done or that it would take a long time," Atienza said. "They should be starting to prepare now to move out because we won't accept any more delays."

He said any proposal should be submitted to his office so he could refer it to the city council, which converted the 30-hectare depot site from an industrial zone to a commercial area last November.

Jerome Aning

P1-million reward for capture . . .

From page A25

Quezon cities looking for foreigners to victimize," he said as he showed media people their photographs.

Police said Chung, 37, had suffocated on his own vomit after being dumped unconscious on a Marikina City street by a con man.

An autopsy on Chung "indicated that the victim died of asphyxia by suffocation when he apparently choked while vomiting," a police statement said.

Tests showed alcohol in the victim's stomach, and he may have been unconscious at the time of death, it added.

Further tests would be needed to determine if he had been drugged, the statement said, adding the gang that preyed on foreigners typically used a pill which contains the potent chemical lorazepam.

Seoul has protested the death of Chung.

Days after Chung was found dead in Marikina City last Friday, two Japanese and a Frenchman were also victimized by the same group in Makati, police said.

Each of the latest victims claimed that a man befriended and drugged him before robbing him of his cash and valuables, the known modus operandi of the Ativan Gang.

Chung went missing two Thursdays ago after a night out with one Robert Sambili and a Korean friend in a videoke bar in Taytay, Rizal. Chung was found dead the next day in Marikina City.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. has a piece of advice for foreigners: Tell Filipino strangers who befriend you that you'll be staying in the country for good.

Pasinos said criminals pounce on foreigners when they know their victims are not staying for long or are about to leave the country.

"They know that no one would be complaining since the tourists would eventually leave," he said. "They just lie low for a while and wait for their victims to leave."

He said Japanese and Korean tourists are usually victimized by petty criminals. Other foreigners are more careful or are adequately briefed to avoid situations where they could be victimized.

With AFP

Pasay cops get tongue-lashing . . .

From page A25

Even then, former police chief Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna said he asked his men a day before the preliminary investigation to come in uniform.

"I have to keep reminding them," he said in Filipino. "They're really bullheaded."

De la Cerna, who was the ground commander in the hostage incident, was among the 21 policemen and eight security guards summoned to yesterday's preliminary investigation.

Abrazaldo chaired the three-man investigating panel. All the policemen showed up but the security guards snubbed the investigation.

Of the 21 police officers, only PO3 Marco Duka, PO3 Florante Nobleza, PO2 Roberto Gonzales, and PO1 Andito Guardian submitted their counter-affidavits on the reckless imprudence resulting in homicide charges filed against them by the Southern Police District.

The four were not among the 10 policemen identified as those who were near the boy and his hostage-taker, based on a June 1 report of the Pasay Police.

De la Cerna's counsel Walter Ong and Roberto Abas Santos, as well as lawyer Jim Balliard who represented 10 of the respondents, asked for a 15-day extension for the submission of their counter-affidavits.

Abrazaldo gave them until June 24.

The prosecutor also warned the respondents not to submit motions that would only seek to delay the release of his panel's resolution by the end of next month.

The warning, he said, was based on the "premise that justice delayed is justice denied."

"We're just doing our job and that is to determine the existence of probable cause," he told the respondents. "We know your predicament but let's give justice where it is due."

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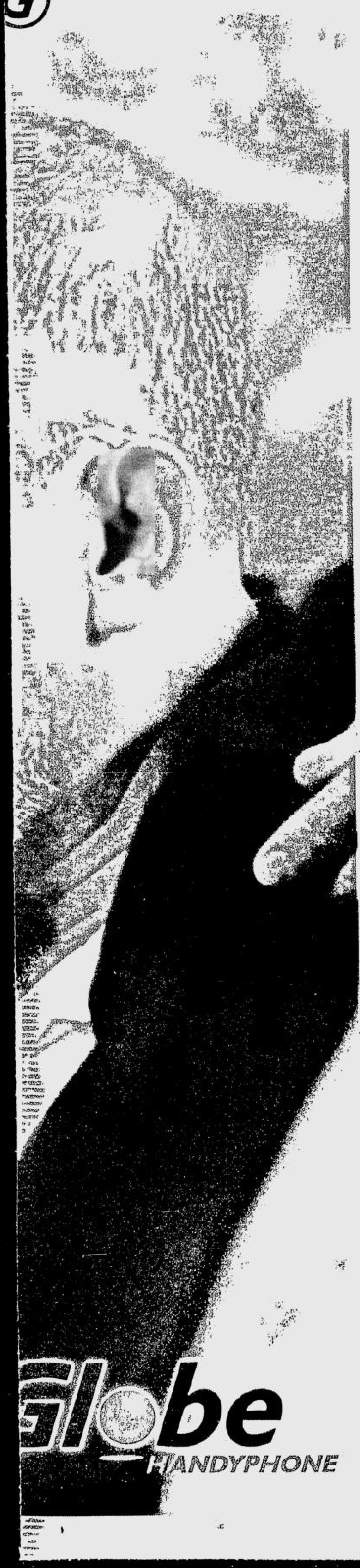

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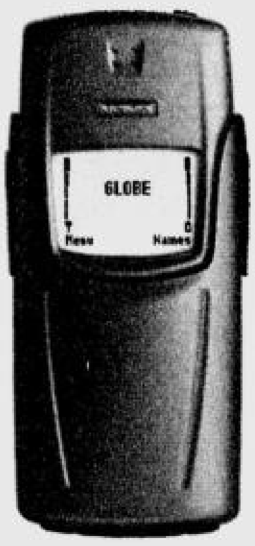

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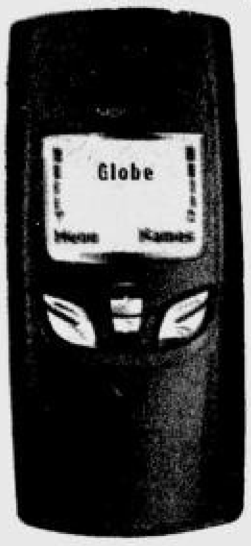

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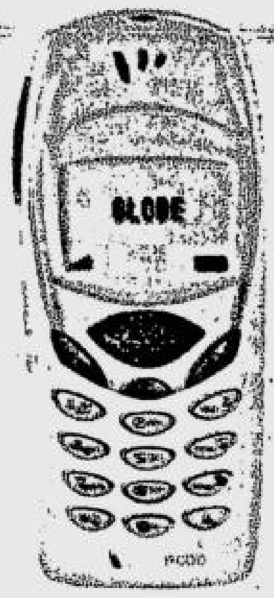

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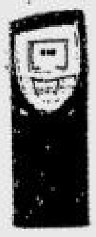

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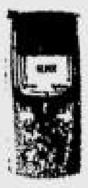

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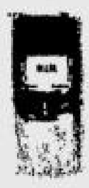

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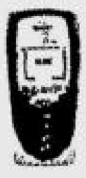

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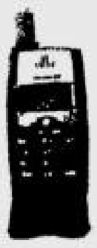

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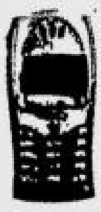

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Bus robbers kill cop

y Tina Santos

A POLICEMAN was shot dead while fighting three holdup men during a robbery on board a passenger bus traveling on McArthur Highway in Valenzuela City before dawn yesterday.

PO2 Noel Labrador, 29, assigned to the Northern Police District Drug Enforcement Unit, died on the way to the Holy Family Hospital in Balagtas, Bulacan, investigators said.

Bus conductor Renato Juan, 23, of Isla, Valenzuela, told police that Labrador was on board the JMK Bus (TWD 228) when, at about 2:30 a.m., three men approached him and asked if he was a policeman. Labrador was wearing a type-B police uniform.

But before Labrador could make a move, the men grabbed his 9-mm service firearm which was tucked in his waist, police said.

Labrador resisted, but one of the three men shot him, police said.

> When they reached Marilao, Bulacan, one of the suspects told his two companions to finish off Labrador, who was grimacing in pain from a gunshot wound in the body, police said

Juan said he jumped off the bus when the men shot Labrador.

Left in the bus were driver Romeo Vito, 31, and passengers Arcelina Flores, 50, and Jerrix Garrota, 23, he said.

Police said the three men then approached the driver and at gunpoint ordered him to keep on driving.

When they reached Marilao, Bulacan, one of the suspects told his two companions to finish off Labrador, who was grimacing in pain from a gunshot wound in the body, police said.

One of the men then shot Labrador in the head at close range, investigators said.

Police said the robbers then jumped off the bus, taking the cash and valuables of the two passengers.

Roxas High homecoming

THE Class of '77 of Manuel Roxas High School in Quezon City will hold its grand alumni homecoming to celebrate its 25th anniversary on Dec. 14, 2002 at the MRHS Grounds in Roxas District in Quezon City.

Reunion preparations and arrangements are now being finalized. For details, please call the organizing committee headed by Danny Pasa, 937-5935, fax 417-7159, (0917) 279-4066; Emer Cruz, 370-8492, (0919)845-7631; or Santiago Testor, (0918)919-3225.

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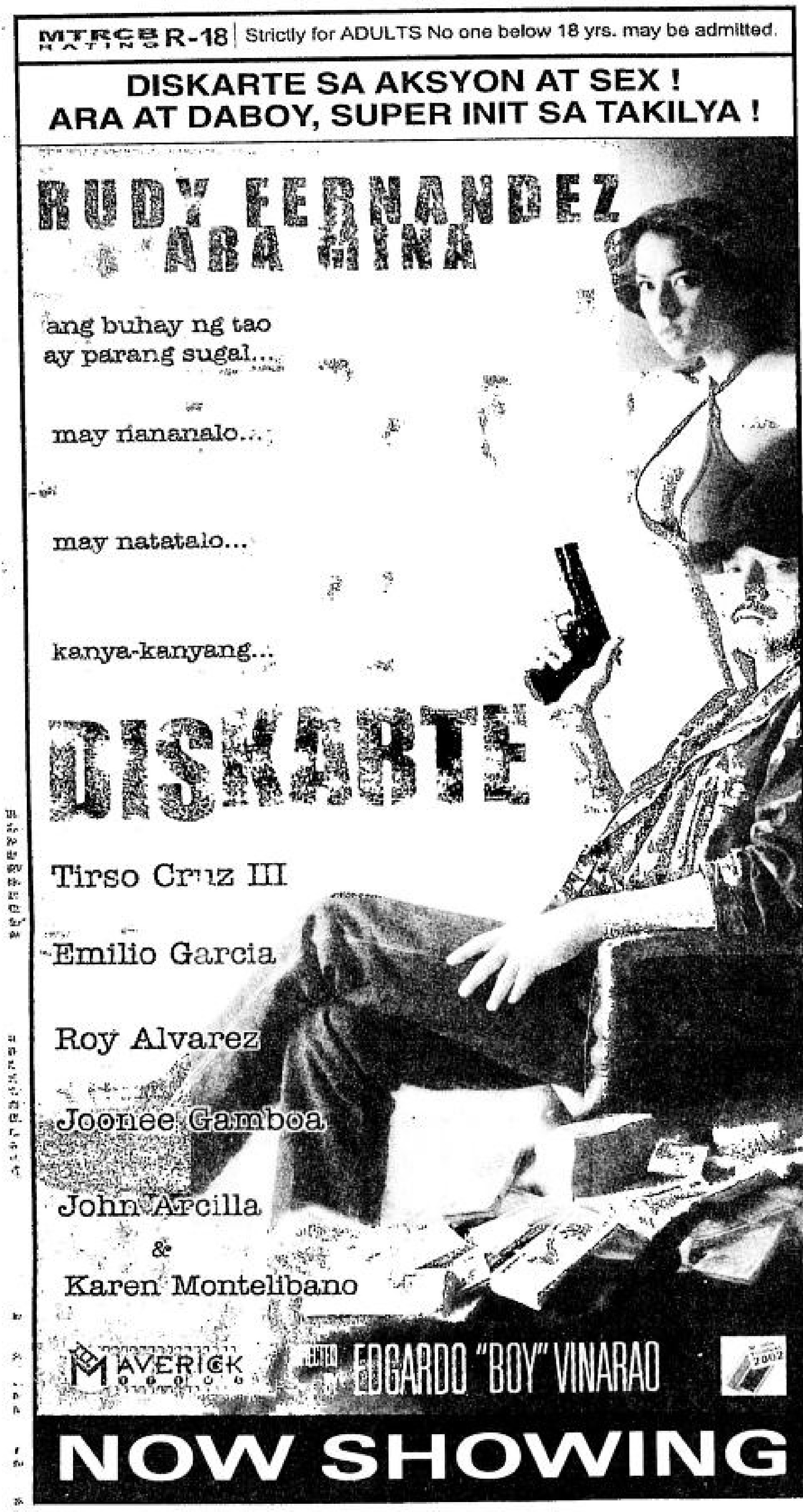
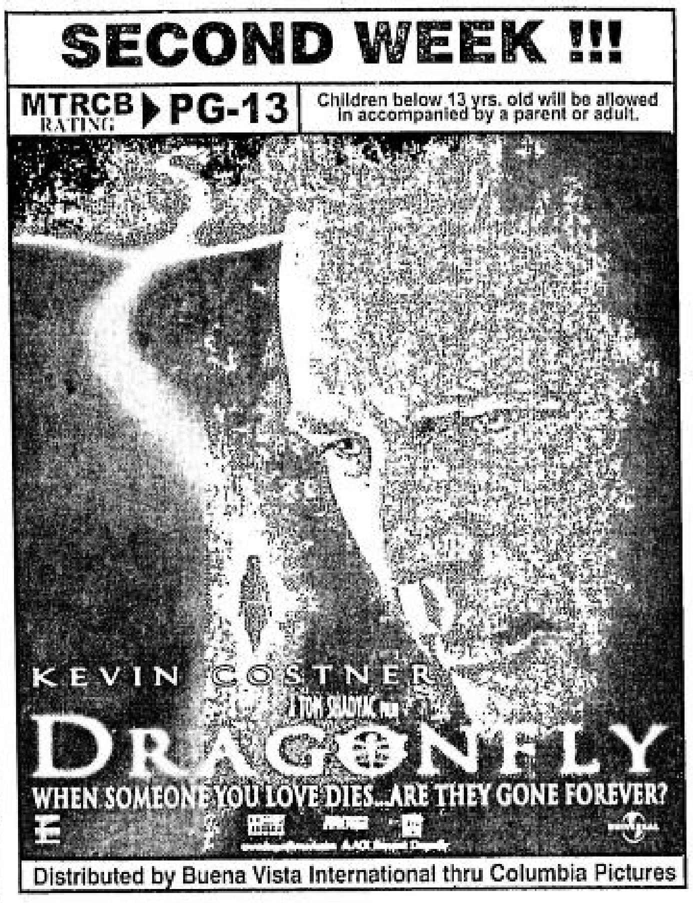
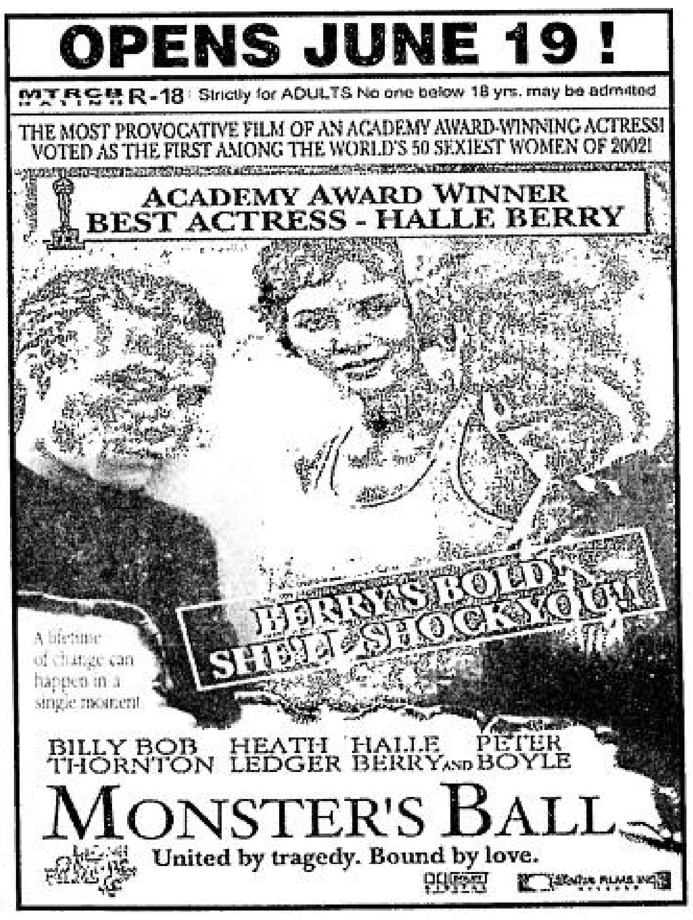
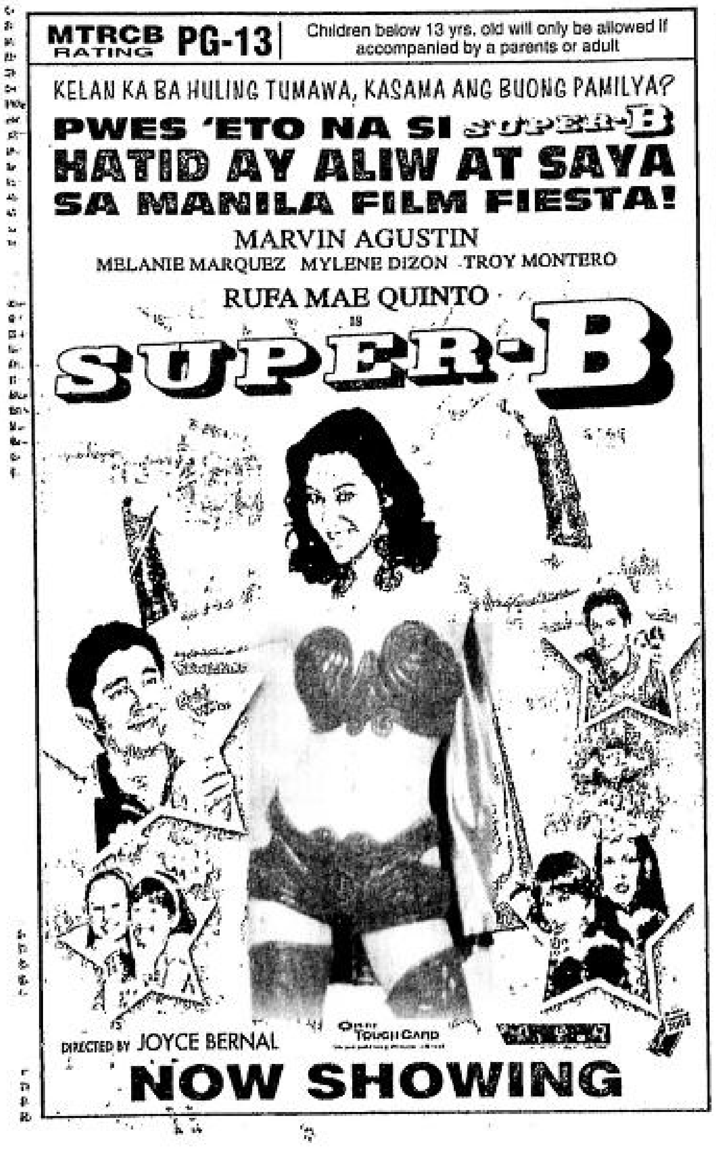
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR / SAKIM NA PAG IBIG
ODEON	DISKARTE
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	SUPER B
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

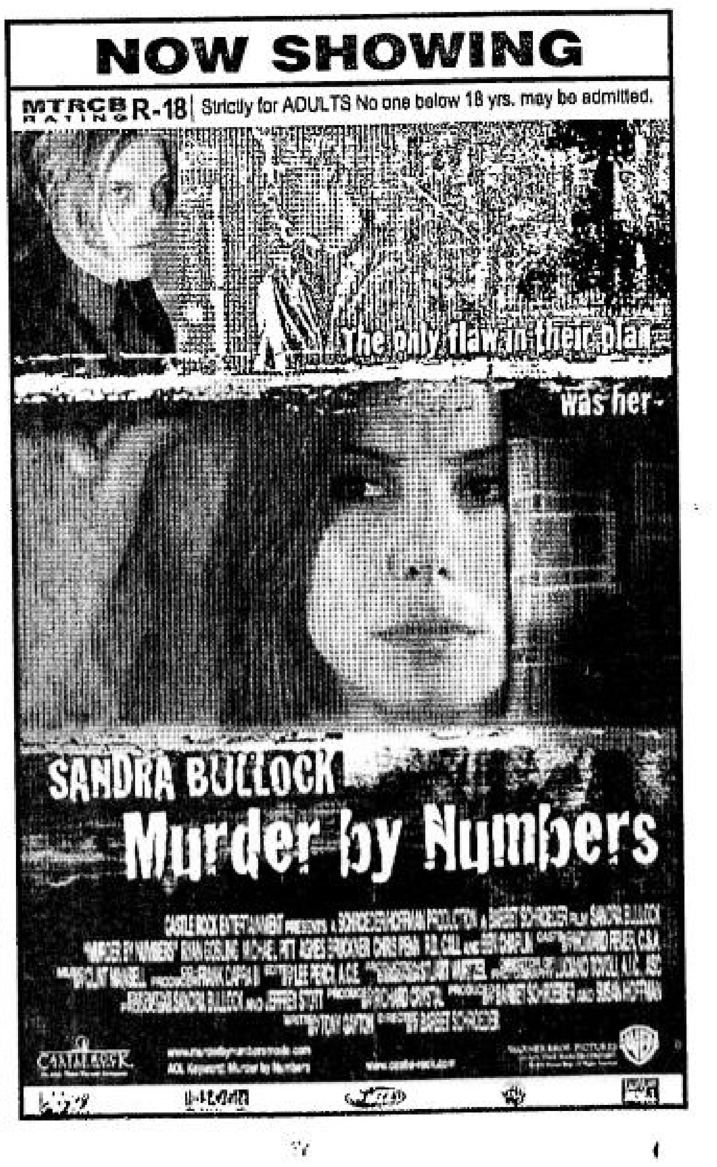

MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
DISKARTE SA AKSYON AT SEX !
ARA AT DABOY, SUPER INIT SA TAKILYA !
RUDY FERNANDEZ
ARA MINA
ang buhay ng tao ay parang sugal...
may nananalo...
may natatalo...
kanya-kanyang...
DISKARTE
Tirso Cruz III
Emilio Garcia
Roy Alvarez
Joonee Gamboa
John Arcilla
&
Karen Montelibano
MAVERICK
EDGARDO "BOY" VINARAO
NOW SHOWING


SECOND WEEK !!!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
KEVIN COSTNER
DRAGONFLY
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES...ARE THEY GONE FOREVER?
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


OPENS JUNE 19 !
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
THE MOST PROVOCATIVE FILM OF AN ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS!
VOTED AS THE FIRST AMONG THE WORLD'S 50 SEXIEST WOMEN OF 2002!
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
BEST ACTRESS - HALLE BERRY
BERRY'S BOLD! SHE'LL SHOCK YOU!!
A lifetime of change can happen in a single moment
BILLY BOB THORNTON HEATH LEDGER HALLE BERRY AND PETER BOYLE
MONSTER'S BALL
United by tragedy. Bound by love.


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parents or adult
KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO
SUPER-B
DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING GP GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG 'DI MALILIMUTAN
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
DINGDONG DANTES
SHARON CUNETA
JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
JOEL LAMANGAN
FUJIFILM
VIVA
NOW SHOWING
MANILA FILM FESTIVAL


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
The only flaw in their plan
was her
SANDRA BULLOCK
Murder by Numbers

Las Piñas gives land certificates to 1,500 families

WALLY and Josefina Espinosa and their three children of Teacher's Compound in Barangay CAA are among 1,500 families who will receive today land certificates from Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Villar, Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante and Rep. Cynthia Villar in an awarding ceremony at the CAA Elementary School. The ceremony is called ``Kalayaan sa Kahirapan, Sariling Lupa Nakamtan."

According to Mayor Aguilar, the recipients are among the 10,000 families who benefited from the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's urban development program when the city declared the 52-hectare Air Transportation Office property in Barangay CAA as alienable and open for distribution to the actual residents.

Aguilar said that by the year 2004, the rest of the families living in Barangay CAA will no longer be called "squatters" but legitimate residents of the city.

The awarding of land to the residents of Barangay CAA was realized through the efforts of the Urban Poor Affairs Office of Las Piñas, the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP) and the Congressional District of Las Piñas Rep. Villar.

Aguilar vowed to finish by 2004 his target of 99-percent poverty reduction and alleviation and the development of all the depressed areas into subdivision–like communities.

QC youths in int'l meet

QUEZON CITY youth leaders Annaliza C. Go and Dahlia M. Bibon, both 17, joined six other young Filipino delegates to Children International's international youth conference in Kansas City, USA. The conference was held June 10-15.

Both born to urban poor families, Go and Bibon are beneficiaries of the College Assistance Program of Unang Lingap Kapwa Philippines Inc., an affiliate of non-profit sponsorship group Children International.

The international conference gathered 34 young leaders from poor families in eight other countries, including Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nepal, and the US.

The conference aims to promote global cultural exchanges, develop impoverished youths to become efficient community leaders and assist them in realizing their full potentials.

Go and Bibon joined fellow delegates Edel S. Garingan and Larry B. Barcancel, sponsored by Abot Kamay Inc. in Manila; Isabel B. Boris and Michelle B. Baynado, Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc. or CSCDI in Tabaco, Albay; and Maria Nerissa U. Bonon and Albert F. Manorina, CSCDI, Legazpi, Albay.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS - GP 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	DRAGONFLY - P13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
MAGKAPATID - GP 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 11:25, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

A HERO WILL RISE..
ON FOUR LEGS.

SCOOBY-DOO

WIN LOTS OF FREEBIES

ON FOUR WHEELS

LOOK FOR THE MYSTERY MACHINE
IN PARTICIPATING CALTEX STATIONS
FROM JUNE 14 TO 15, FROM 1 TO 5 PM.

GAS UP, AND WITH A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF P300, YOU GET AN AYALA CINEMAS SCOOBY DOO STICKER AND AN AYALA CENTER PARKING COUPON FOR FREE!

WATCH SCOOBY DOO AT AYALA CINEMAS, STARTING JUNE 19.

JUNE 14, FRIDAY

1. GOLDEN FIELD CALTEX - PASAY ROAD CORNER AMORSOLO ST., MAKATI
2. HARVARD CALTEX - GUADALUPE EDSA COR. HARVARD, MKT.
3. PETROLEUM ALLEY CALTEX - JP RIZAL GUADALUPE VIEJO, MKT. (PASIG RIVER)
4. LORPED CALTEX - JP RIZAL CORNER CALASANA STREET, MKT.
5. CARPORT CALTEX - PASONG TAMO (NEAR MAKATI CINEMA SQAURE)

JUNE 15, SATURDAY

1. ALABANG GAS - ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD
2. SOUTHGATE CALTEX - PRESIDENT AVENUE, BF HOMES, PQUE.
3. ZYNERGY CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE, PQUE. (IN FRONT OF LOYOLA GARDENS)
4. SUCAT SUPERSTAR CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE, PQUE.
5. STAR CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE COR. IRENEVILLE SUBD.

OPENS AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS ON JUNE 19, 2002

AYALA CINEMAS Vortex NU 107 107.5FM TGI FRIDAY'S

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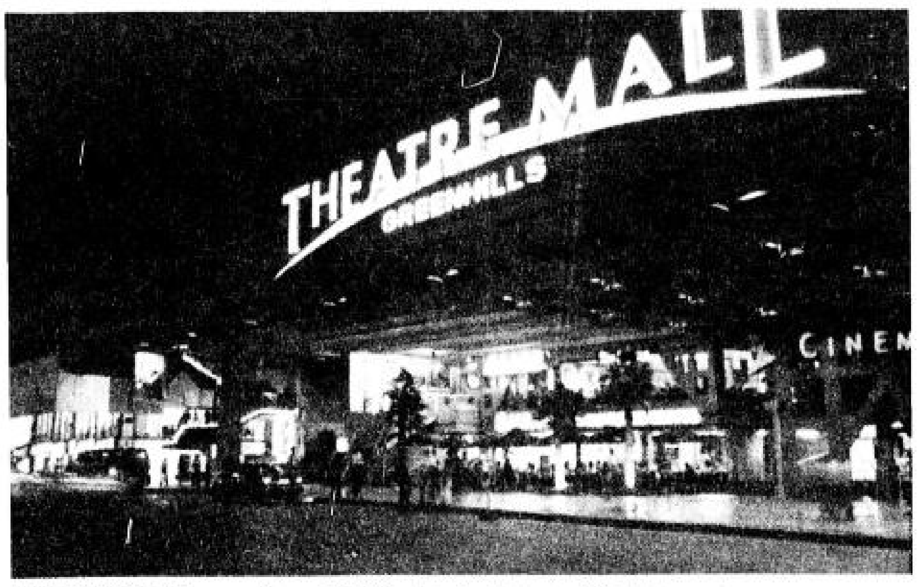
Reinventing Greenhills

By Henry Barrameda,
Contributor


TWO IN ONE, the new Greenhills Theatre has two moviehouses.

LONG before the giant malls were built, the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan was already drawing in the shopping crowd.

It was the place to be for its posh restaurants and shops. The Greenhills Theater had "the Rolls-Royce of theater equipment," says Rex Drilon II, COO of Ortigas & Co. Limited Partnership, owner of Greenhills Shopping Complex.

Little has changed. What we see in the complex is generally what we would have seen about 30 years ago. The complex had not been not able to catch up with the trend in mall development. Still, the Greenhills Shopping Center still lures thousands of shoppers looking for cell phones, clothes and jewelry.

"The fact that Greenhills can accommodate so much variety makes it capable of adapting to the trends or the demands of the market," says Drilon.

The mall, he says, houses the biggest number of retail shops than any of the modern malls in the metropolis. But despite this success, the owners know that the mall has to change so it can keep on luring people.

The changes have already begun in a grand scheme called "Reinventing the Greenhills Shopping Complex."

The first change you will notice is the traffic scheme. Motorists used to turn right upon entering the main complex entrance on Ortigas. Today, they have to turn left.

"The clockwise scheme of traffic is much friendlier to the pedestrian and it is much safer," says Drilon.

Until recently, the northern end of the mall was empty except for passers-by because of the inactivity of the Greenhills Theater. Now it is teeming with people, as Greenhills Theater has been converted into two state-of-the-art moviehouses.

Around it are a hundred stores selling anything from clothes to food.

Shoppesville, which has more than 500 shops, is being renovated. And so is Virramall, which has 600 shops.

The Center Mall, home of the famous Greenhills *tiangge*, is being upgraded. The Manila Bank Arcade is also being renovated. And, for more convenience for shoppers who bring cars, a new pay-parking scheme will be implemented.

"We never really had major changes all these years because it was hardly possible," says Drilon. "There were different owners who were already contented with how the complex was. But since their lease have expired, Ortigas & Company is now making changes."

He adds: "It will still be the 'incubator' for small entrepreneurs." Some businesses that started as small stalls in the mall are now some of the big names in the clothes retail industry.

Today, there are hundreds of those shops that want to be the next big success story at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. Though not all of them will make it really big, the retailers seem to be very happy about the everyday progress of their business. The thousands of shoppers that flock to the mall everyday are enough reason to be happy and optimistic.

Long before *tiangge* shopping became fashionable, Greenhills was already offering those little spaces for small entrepreneurs. In the light of the changes being made in the complex and those still on the drawing board, how will these small businessmen and women be able to cope or survive?

"We will continue to maintain our image of value-shopping," Drilon says. "We will still have spaces for them.

"We will address as many needs of the market as possible. Though we will have little upscale corridors, we'd like to take in the whole range of consumers."

The *tiangge* market is in fact a mix of cheap and expensive items. There are pearls, for example, whose prices range from a couple of hundreds to more than a hundred thousand pesos.

Aside from being known for its retail shops, the place was also known for its nightlife. Years ago, the Annapolis side was one of the busiest bar-and-restaurant strips in Metro Manila. When places like Malate, Makati and Eastwood City started to lure the partying people, Greenhills was left drawing so little of its loyal patrons.

"There is a captive market," Drilon points out. "We used to have lots of people coming here for wholesome entertainment but since the other night spots developed, we lost them."

Soon, the northern area of the mall will be converted into a livelier entertainment center.

"We want to regain the hold that we had," Drilon says. "If people can go to Eastwood or Alabang, they can come to us. And because of the new traffic and pay-parking schemes, we won't have overcrowding problems."

Donors threaten to take back real estate from Malabon

By Tina Santos

A GROUP of land donors threatened to withdraw their donation of a parcel of land that would be used for the construction of a sports and recreation center in Malabon City.

The donors, spouses Bernabe Gozon and Isabelita Vital, and sisters Zenaida, Ma. Socorro and Ma. Carmina Crisostomo, said the city government has failed to follow the terms and conditions in the deed of donation they signed in May 2000.

In a letter to Mayor Amado Vicencio, the donors' lawyer Vicente Cuna emphasized that the city government violated paragraph 6 of the deed of donation which states that the "donated portions shall be developed immediately after signing... and the construction of the sports and recreation complex shall be started within a period of one year."

Cuna said that two years had passed but the local government has not yet started developing the 16,725-square-meter property located beside the controversial new city hall project in Catmon, Malabon.

The donors urged Vicencio to immediately surrender to them the transfer certificate of title of the donated land.

Vicencio could not be contacted for comment in his office.

Opposition Councilor Edilberto Torres expressed disappointment over this development, saying that the donation could have been a great help to the city government.

"They just wasted it," he said. "It would have been put to good use but they just ignored it. They give importance to and spend so much instead on some irrelevant projects, such as Malabon Day which is being celebrated for one whole month," Torres said.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 GP	2 MURDER BY NUMBERS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 P 13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
[illegible]

MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 15 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION. PLS. CALL · 721-6726 OR [illegible]

AYALA CINEMAS
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Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

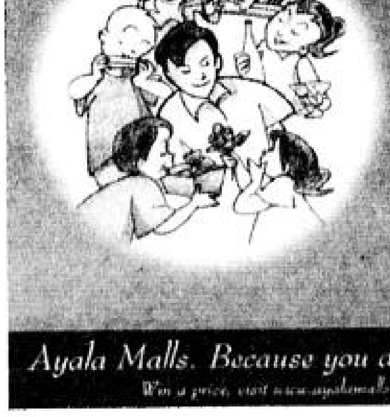
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	1 MAGKAPATID	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MAGKAPATID	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:10, 11:15	2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUPER B	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00	3 MAGKAPATID	3 PANIC ROOM 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 DISKARTE	4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 MAGKAPATID 12:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:00	4 SUPER B
	5 STAR WARS		5 DRAGONFLY 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
	6 A WALK TO REMEMBER			
	7 RESIDENT EVIL			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com.

The Ayala malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU


worship of idols is now allowed

The Ayala Malls Father's Day Events

Makati
Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards
Snick-A-Pick Party
June 16, 4 pm, Glorietta Activity Center

Video Me Daddy, Daddy & Me Picture, e-Postcards, Father's Day Card Making Contest
June 10-16, e-Lounge Glorietta 2

Alabang
Motor Town 2002 Car Show
June 10-19, Activity Center

Live Entertainment by Silk Band
June 15, Activity Center

Cebu
A bottle of RED Wine awaits the 1st 100 shoppers per day on June 15 & 16 upon presentation of a single purchase receipt of P500.

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
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www.ayalaland.com.ph

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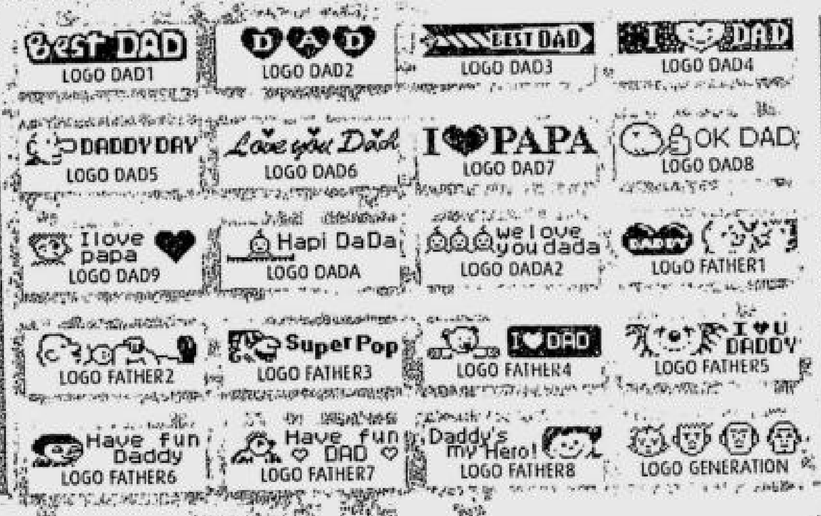
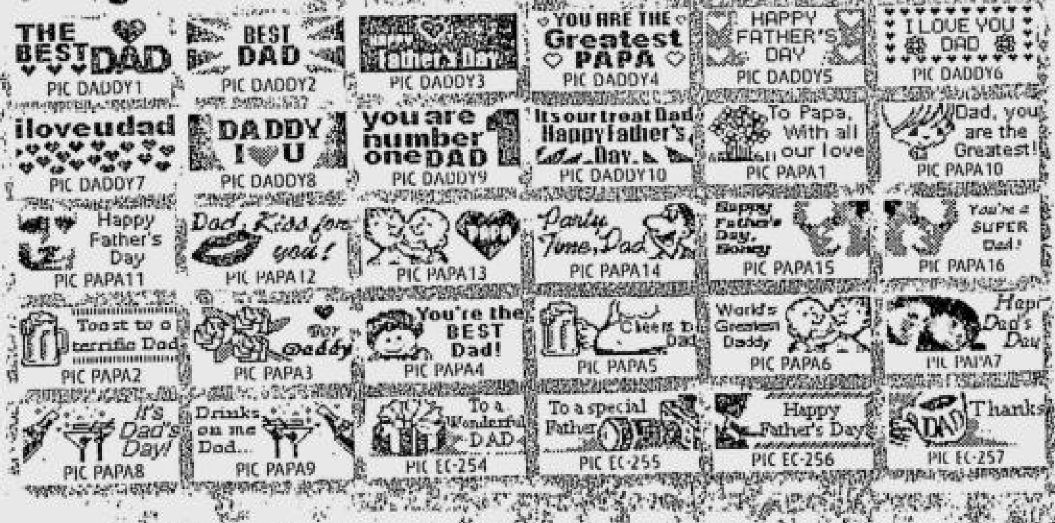
Shock Dad with these cool SMART zed logos, ringtones & picture messages for Father's Day.

LOGOS


Best DAD
DAD
BEST DAD
I DAD
DADDY DAY
Love you Dad
I PAPA
OK DAD
I love papa
Hapi DaDa
we love you dada
DADDY
Super Pop
I DAD
I U DADDY
Have fun Daddy
Have fun DAD
Daddy's my Hero!

LOGO DAD1
LOGO DAD2
LOGO DAD3
LOGO DAD4
LOGO DAD5
LOGO DAD6
LOGO DAD7
LOGO DAD8
LOGO DAD9
LOGO DADA
LOGO DADA2
LOGO FATHER1
LOGO FATHER2
LOGO FATHER3
LOGO FATHER4
LOGO FATHER5
LOGO FATHER6
LOGO FATHER7
LOGO FATHER8
LOGO GENERATION

PICTURE MESSAGES


THE BEST DAD
BEST DAD
Father's Day
YOU ARE THE Greatest PAPA
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
I LOVE YOU DAD
iloveudad
DADDY I U
you are number one DAD
Its our treat Dad Happy Father's Day.
To Papa, With all our love
Dad, you are the Greatest!
Happy Father's Day
Dad, Kiss for you!
Party Time, Dad
Happy Father's Day, Honey
You're a SUPER Dad!
Toast to a terrific Dad
for Daddy
You're the BEST Dad!
Cheers to Dad
World's Greatest Daddy
Hapi Dad's Day
It's Dad's Day!
Drinks on me Dad...
To a Wonderful DAD
To a special Father
Happy Father's Day
DAD
Thanks

PIC DADDY1
PIC DADDY2
PIC DADDY3
PIC DADDY4
PIC DADDY5
PIC DADDY6
PIC DADDY7
PIC DADDY8
PIC DADDY9
PIC DADDY10
PIC PAPA1
PIC PAPA10
PIC PAPA11
PIC PAPA12
PIC PAPA13
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PIC PAPA7
PIC PAPA8
PIC PAPA9
PIC EC-254
PIC EC-255
PIC EC-256
PIC EC-257

RINGTONES

Happy Together
The Turtles
TONE HAPPY2GEDER

Lady Marmalade
Christina Aguilera
TONE MARMALADE

Music Of My Heart
N'sync & Gloria Estefan
TONE MUSICHEART

My Girl
Westlife
TONE MYGIRL

All My Loving
Beatles
TONE ALLMYLOVN

And I Love Her
Beatles
TONE ANDILOVE

Baby. You're A Rich Man
Beatles
TONE BABYRICH

Best Thing That Ever Happened
TONE BESTTHNG

Can't Smile Without You
Barry Manilow
TONE CANTSMILE

Don't You
Simple Minds
TONE DONTYOU

Hard Day's Night
Beatles
TONE HARDDAYS

Help
Beatles
TONE HELPBTLS

I Should Have Known Better
Beatles
TONE ISHLDHAVE

James Dean
Goo Goo Dolls
TONE JAMESDEAN

Let It Be
John Lennon/Paul McCartney
TONE LETI' BE

MacArthur Park
Judy Garland
TONE OVERDRAIN

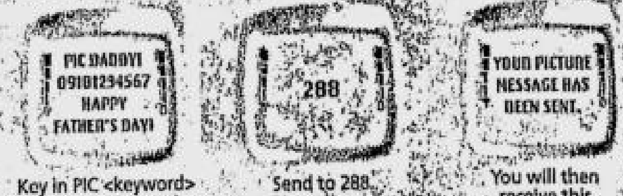
Shake Your Groove Thing
Peaches And Herb
TONE GRVETHNG

Make It With You
David Gates
TONE MAKEIT

Ticket To Ride
John Lennon/Paul McCartney
TONE TICKETRDE

Yesterday
Beatles
TONE YESTERDAY

How to send logos, picture messages & ringtones:


PIC DADDY1 09181234567 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
288
YOUR PICTURE MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT.

Key in PIC <keyword> <celfone no.> <greeting>
Ex: PIC DADDY1 09181234567 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY,
LOGO DAD1 09181234567,
TONE HELP 09181234567.

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You will then receive this message.

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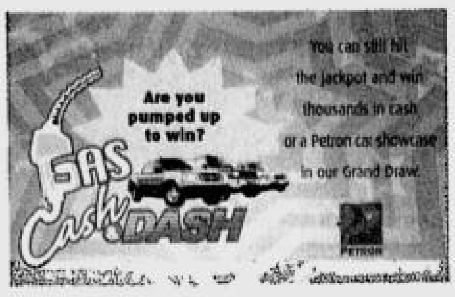
Are you pumped up to win?
Gas Cash Dash
You can still hit the jackpot and win thousands in cash or a Petron car showcase in our Grand Draw.
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SATURDAY,
JUNE 15, 2002

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BUSINESS
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MVP adds JP Morgan to list of allies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan has drafted Wall Street financial services giant JP Morgan as strategist and adviser for a proposed management aided buyout of First Pacific's interest in PLDT and Bonifacio Land Corp. to fend off the takeover bid of taipan John Gokongwei.

An INQUIRER source said JP Morgan was selected by PLDT management Thursday following days of negotiations between the two sides.

JP Morgan will face off with ING Barings and Credit Suisse First Boston, the advisers of the First Pacific group, and Morgan Stanley, which was tapped by Nippon Telephone and Telegraph. Gokongwei is reportedly getting advise from Citibank Salomon Smith Barney and Goldman Sachs.

JP Morgan is the latest big gun recruited by Pangilinan to his crusade. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Merrill Lynch are reportedly close to firming up a deal to provide the financial muscle to Pangilinan's group.

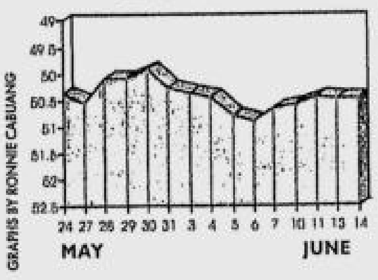
A source said the Pangilinan group was looking to attack Gokongwei's bid on two, separate fronts—PLDT and Fort Bonifacio. The source said that crippling just one of the two legs of Gokongwei's bid would effectively cripple Gokongwei's assault.

The source said that if the Pangilinan group comes up with a better offer for First Pacific's stake in Fort Bonifacio, the Salim family has no choice but to jettison Gokongwei's deal and accept the superior bid.

Gokongwei's gambit of making an all-or-nothing offer for First Pacific's Philippine holdings was meant to make it difficult for other investors to match his offer. But the taipan apparently did not anticipate that his rivals were willing to join hands to frustrate his ambition of becoming a kingpin in telecommunications and landlord of the most potent, undeveloped central business district in the country.

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.47 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 14, 2002

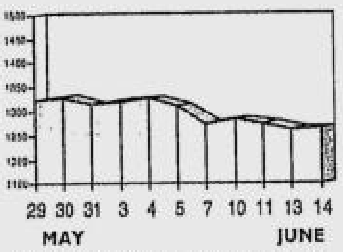
¥ 124.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 14, 2002

GOLD: $319.05
per ounce Hong Kong, June 14, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up slightly

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS eked out gains yesterday after two consecutive days of losses, as bargain hunters in select caps provided the market with some support, analysts said.

"A lot of the issues are already at support levels prompting this small technical rebound and there's no particular reason behind it," said AB Capital stock analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index ended up 3.53 points or 0.28 percent higher at 1,265.75 points.

STOCKS/ B2

IMF urges gov't to go after big tax evaders

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has urged the Macapagal administration to go after big tax evaders to arrest the decline in revenue collection and help sustain the country's economic growth.

"The government must prosecute tax evaders and (while) it is building up such cases ... I am not sure if it will succeed," said Joshua Felman, head of the IMF team that visited Manila for a two-week review of the country's economic performance.

Felman said that going after a big fish would help build the government's credibility in prosecuting tax cheats.

"But it is never as easy as it seems because the government needs well-documented evidence, which is hard to come by. And of course, the other party would come out with well-paid lawyers," he said.

Auditing and prosecuting tax evaders topped the IMF's must-do list for the Bureau of Internal Revenue whose collection had been dwindling as a percentage of the country's gross national product.

Felman noted that the BIR's collection as a percentage of GNP had fallen from 16.3 percent in 1998 to only 12.7 percent in 2001. This ratio, he said, was the lowest in the region.

The poor collection of the internal revenue agency was being largely blamed for the government's huge budget deficit, which rose sharply as of April to almost P83 billion or 64 percent of the P130-billion target for the year.

The government must gradually bring down its budget deficit to zero by 2006 in order to achieve a more sustainable growth.

Despite the fiscal problems, the IMF said that economic growth targets of the government this year—set at 4 to 4.6 percent for gross domestic prod-

IMF/ B2

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018	Monday / March 18	306	Monday / April 29
526	Wednesday / March 20	595	Wednesday / May 1
975	Friday / March 22	102	Friday / May 3
125	Monday / March 25	410	Monday / May 6
513	Wednesday / March 27	601	Wednesday / May 8
810	Sunday / March 31	935	Friday / May 10
907	Monday / April 1	225	Monday / May 13
221	Wednesday / April 3	706	Wednesday / May 15
059	Friday / April 5	952	Friday / May 17
116	Monday / April 8	057	Monday / May 20
311	Wednesday / April 10	109	Wednesday / May 22
715	Friday / April 12	607	Friday / May 24
020	Monday / April 15	022	Monday / May 27
414	Wednesday / April 17	318	Wednesday / May 29
814	Friday / April 19	999	Friday / May 31
215	Monday / April 22	052	Monday / June 3
420	Wednesday / April 24	531	Wednesday / June 5
682	Friday / April 26	943	Friday / June 7

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*Fortune Magazine, July 2001

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Pasig court upholds election of non-brokers to PSE board

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PASIG City regional trial court has upheld the results of the election of Philippine Stock Exchange directors last March.

In a decision dated June 7, Pasig RTC Judge Jose Hernandez dismissed the petition of former PSE president Ramon Garcia, former PSE chair Trinidad Kalaw and broker Joseph Roxas to nullify the election of eight non-broker directors to the PSE board.

Hernandez noted that Garcia, Kalaw and Roxas did not exhaust their intra-corporate remedies before filing the case.

They did not protest the election of the non-broker directors until just after the organizational meeting wherein broker Vivian Yuchengco, on the back of the support from the non-brokers, was elected chair, edging out rival broker Robert Coyiuto by one vote.

"No protest, object or manifestation of irregularity whatsoever was ever recorded all through the proceedings of the March 9, 2002 elections," the judge noted.

Hernandez also noted that nothing on the records indicated that the PSE's nomination committee and the old board abused their respective authorities in evaluating the qualifications of the nominees and in coming up with the final list consisting of only eight candidates.

The decision of the court affirmed the mandate of the current PSE directors and the exchange's leaders led by Yuchengco and PSE president Ernest Leung.

Garcia, who had been disqualified by the PSE nominations committee as a non-broker candidate, reportedly has no plans to appeal the court's dismissal of the case.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, non-brokers should make up majority of the board of an exchange.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has also been prodding the PSE to issue or sell shares to comply with a rule under the SRC that no industry group should own more than 20 percent of an exchange.

San Miguel cites gains from integration efforts

SAN Miguel Corp. said that it has started to benefit from its 2002 thrust of integrating business operations of its recent acquisitions.

SMC last year reported a slight decline in net income last year because of the recent acquisitions.

In a statement, SMC yesterday said that the integration should provide the company with a strong boost in earnings and an additional source of sustainable growth.

SMC said it expected to realize significant savings from its combined food group now named San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc.

Early gains were being realized through the sharing of best practices and collaborative efforts in such areas as advances or improvements in poultry breeds, farm practices in breeding facilities, and raw material sourcing.

The food and beverage giant also said that synergies in capacity utilization has started bearing fruits in Cosmos Bottling Corp., purchased early this year with its operations being integrated into Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., which SMC acquired in 2001.

For instance, Cosmos facilities requiring additional capacities have been identified and are now being supplemented by volumes from CCBPI plants.

Cosmos-in-can production, previously contracted out to a toll manufacturer, has likewise been transferred to the CCBPI Sta. Rosa Laguna plant. In addition to improved production efficiencies, production costs were reduced and product quality was further upgraded, resulting in higher utilization levels in the plant.

Other gains for CCBPI and Cosmos include bigger volume discounts from the consolidation of sugar and carbon dioxide purchases and sharing of key raw materials among plants to enable more balanced demand.

IMF urges . . .

From page B1

uct and 4.5 to 5 percent for GNP—were attainable.

Ridding the BIR of corruption, Felman added, was also a key to bringing in more revenues for the government. The BIR raises more than 80 percent of the government's revenues yearly and for 2002, it must collect P447.6 billion.

Transforming the internal revenue agency into a much more focused and transparent unit with more qualified staff, Felman added, was part of the reform package presented by the government to the IMF to help address the problems on revenue collection.

Also part of the plan, he said, was to implement an industry benchmarking "so that whenever monthly payments by large taxpayers fall short of the norm, investigations will follow."

Stocks end up slightly

From page B1

On the week, the index was down 0.7 percent. Value turnover dropped to P335.7 million from Thursday's P419.68 million.

Vistan pegged the market's immediate support at 1,260 and resistance at 1,300.

"It's hard to say whether there will be follow-through buying or more significant rally in the coming sessions," he said.

BPI Securities stock analyst Robert Cano said the market remained depressed due to lack of solid leads.

"Investors remained sidelined as they await for more developments specially on the sale of First Pacific's stake in PLDT," Cano said.

PLDT closed unchanged at P410 and was the sixth most active stock.

The market has been keeping a tight watch on PLDT for more than a week now, after a prominent Manila-based family, the Gokongweis, said it had struck an agreement with PLDT's parent firm First Pacific Co. to take over the country's telecoms giant.

On Tuesday, PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan told shareholders in an annual meeting that the proposed deal by the Gokongwei family to buy a single biggest stake in the phone carrier has not been completed and numerous issues must be resolved before it is finalized.

The PLDT board has signaled its opposition to the move and the market is abuzz with speculation that some PLDT shareholders might present a counter offer soon.

The country's largest property firm Ayala Land gained 20 centavos or 3.45 percent at P6. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

UNION Cement Corp. said there were no definitive plans or agreement for its reported merger with **Alsons Cement Corp.**

* * *

FIRST E-Bank said it is not privy to the discussions of the sale of the **Salim Group**'s controlling interest in **Metro Pacific Corp.** and **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.**

* * *

THE FOLLOWING were elected officers of **Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.**: Edward Kuok Khoon Loong, chair; Alfredo Ramos, vice chair; Tomas Zita Jr., chair of the executive committee, Vicente Formoso, treasurer, and Kinsun Ng, controller.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Medco Holdings Inc.** postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from July 5 to a later date.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved **Ionics Inc.**'s amendment to its articles of incorporation increasing its number of directors from nine to 10. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

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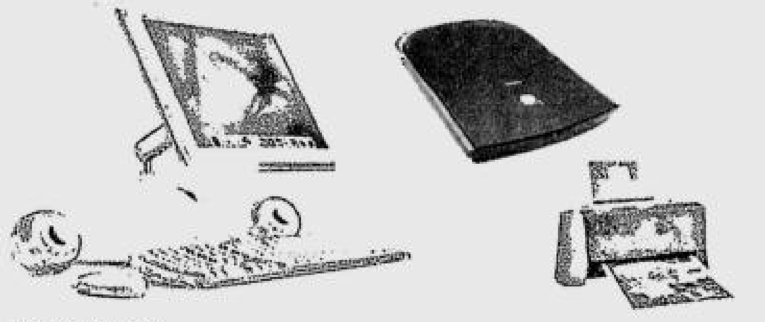

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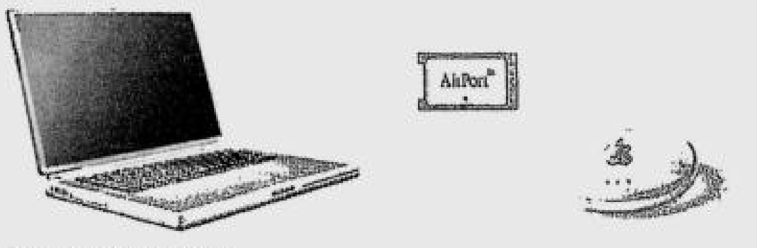

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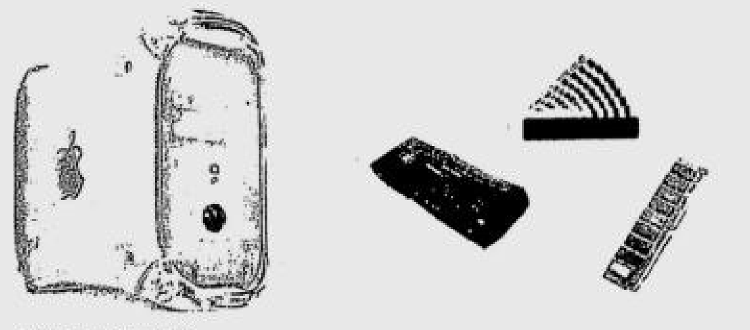

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, June 14, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	795,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	54	53.5	54	2,743,600
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	40
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37	36	36.5	55,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	193,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	75	75	68	68	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	36.5	36.5	179,100
Philippine National Bank	38	38	37.5	38	17,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	28.5	26.5	28.5	1,200
Security Bank Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14	2,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.5	23	44,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1370	1370	1370	570
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1105	1105	1100	1100	420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26	15,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	3,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	645	645	645	100
Piltel	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	2,010,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	412.5	410	410	24,490
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	33,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	24	23	24	4,000
Manila Electric Co. B	36	36.5	35.5	36	326,700
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	2,427,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	112,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	293,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	450,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	125,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	724,900
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	19	19	19	19	20,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	50,000
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	535,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	89,500
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57	56	56	44,400
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	11,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	406,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	234,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	35,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	1,450,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23	23	23	52,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.22	0.15	0.22	80,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	250,000
Ionics Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	45,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.014	0.014	15,400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,150,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	3,800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	1,074,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	7,455,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	1,335,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	4,196,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	260,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	730,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,010,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	720,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	57,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,053,430	175,812,490.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	74,022,290	85,810,140.00
PRO	16,716,000	72,349,850.00
Mining	29,740,000	1,236,400.00
OIL	71,560,000	383,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	196,091,720	335,592,580.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	516.70	UP 3.83
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,746.33	DOWN 9.30
PRO	536.88	UP 10.28
Mining	1,294.36	DOWN 30.07
OIL	1.24	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	726.29	DOWN 17.11
Composite	1,265.75	UP 3.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 42; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 97; NO. OF TRADES: 1,250

CURRENCIES

June 14, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.060333	1.000000	50.4920
Japan	Yen	0.008491	0.008008	0.4043
United Kingdom	Pound	1.560704	1.471900	74.3192
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135943	0.128208	6.4735
Switzerland	Franc	0.678049	0.639468	32.2880
Canada	Dollar	0.688930	0.649730	32.8062
Singapore	Dollar	0.593691	0.559910	28.2710
Australia	Dollar	0.604179	0.569801	28.7704
Bahrain	Dinar	2.812704	2.652661	133.9382
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282763	0.266674	13.4649
Brunei	Dollar	0.592034	0.558347	28.1921
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000121	0.000114	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.025132	0.023702	1.1968
UAE	Dirham	0.288722	0.272294	13.7487
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000821	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.943100	47.6190
Argentina	Peso	0.305571	0.288184	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.397427	0.374813	18.9251
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.126791	6.4019
India	Rupee	0.021666	0.020433	1.0317
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.279035	0.263158	13.2874
Mexico	New Peso	0.109970	0.103713	5.2367
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520511	0.490894	24.7862
Norway	Kroner	0.134889	0.127214	6.4233
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017673	0.016667	0.8416
South Africa	Rand	0.103573	0.097680	4.9321
Sweden	Kroner	0.109365	0.103142	5.2078
Syria	Pound	0.020689	0.019512	0.9852
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031260	0.029481	1.4886
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000902	0.000851	0.0430

CAMACHO AT ADB CONFERENCE
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho delivers the keynote address at the Asian Development Bank-hosted "Conference to Strengthen the Credit Rating Discipline in Asia" on June 6 at the ADB headquarters in Manila. Top credit rating officials and representatives of securities and exchange commissions in the region attended the conference, which was co-organized by the Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia (Acraa). In his speech, Camacho called for more investor safeguards and transparency in financial reporting and auditing procedures.

Bangko Sentral still hopeful on peso rebound to 49 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the peso would still recover to the 49-to-$1 level in the coming months given expectations of a gradual economic recovery.

"Barring any disaster, it is still possible for the peso to strengthen below the 50 level as we continue to expect a weaker dollar across all other currencies," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The central bank chief last week blamed the leadership crisis in the Senate for the renewed volatility of the peso.

He said the conflict in the Senate worried foreign investors that the government's economic agenda would be stalled. The Senate row also pushed the peso near the 51-to-$1 level more than a week ago.

Buenaventura said the peso's recovery should be in tandem with the movement of other currencies in the region.

"We don't want the peso to be stronger than other regional currencies to ensure that our exports will remain competitive," he explained.

The peso was stable yesterday as it closed at 50.47 to a dollar from 50.465 last Thursday.

Exporters are averse to a strong peso because it would mean lower earnings and less competitive products.

The government is expecting exports to chart a 4-percent growth this year against a 15.7-percent contraction in 2001.

Buenaventura said improved export earnings this year would also support the central bank's revised external payments target.

He clarified that the BSP was now targeting a balance-of-payments surplus of $150 million and not just $100 million as reported today.

"There is even a chance that the BOP surplus would be higher than $150 million but we would rather be conservative in our targets," the central bank chief said.

A deficit in external payments usually puts pressure on the local currency because it implies that foreign inflows are not enough to settle the country's external obligations.

"The peso will definitely be stable given our expectations of a BOP surplus," Buenaventura said.

The government had revised its peso forecast this year to an average of 50 to 51 from the earlier projection of 51 to 52 to a dollar.

Another government source noted, however, that for the peso to remain stable and for other economic numbers to stay favorable, the political problems in the Senate must be resolved when Congress reopens on July 22.

BSP keeps hands off UOB dispute

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it would keep a hands-off policy on the internal conflict of United Overseas Bank Philippines even as it urged the bank's feuding shareholders to settle their dispute immediately.

"They better find a solution outside of the central bank. They have to solve their differences because eventually, they will suffer and even the bank will suffer," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The conflict between the Singaporean and Filipino shareholders in UOB Philippines stemmed from the alleged failure of the former to turn over P1.4 billion in receivables to the latter. The Filipino group claimed that this was covered by an agreement done in good faith.

The Singaporeans, on the other hand, alleged that the Filipino group also promised but failed to infuse additional capital.

The Singaporeans, owning about 60 percent of UOB Philippines, have accused the Filipino shareholders of coming up with press statements that tend to agitate and cause panic among the bank's depositors.

UOB Philippines president Chua Teng Hui earlier asked the BSP to disqualify four directors representing the Filipino shareholders. But Buenaventura said the central bank would rather not be involved in an intra-corporate dispute.

"We told them that only the two of you can determine who said what, so they better find a solution. Surely, there has got to be a win-win solution to their problems," the BSP chief said.

The Singaporeans have elevated the case to an arbitration court in Australia.

Filipino shareholders led by John Espiritu, son of former finance chief Edgardo Espiritu, said that while local shareholders of UOB Philippines acknowledged that they had the obligation to promote the bank's profitability, they also had the right to seek relief for their grievances.

BSP/ B5

Moody's upgrades PNB credit rating

AMERICAN credit-rating firm Moody's upgraded the debt and deposit ratings of Philippine National Bank.

The bank's rating for long-term foreign currency bonds was raised to Ba1 from Ba3; the rating for long-term foreign currency deposits was raised to Ba2 from Ba3, and the rating for long-term domestic currency deposits was raised to Baa3 from Ba3.

The ratings for short-term foreign currency debt and deposits were confirmed at Not Prime while the Bank Financial Strength Rating was unchanged at E. This concludes the review that was initiated on Dec. 11, 2001.

The rating outlook is stable.

The upgrade of the debt and deposit ratings stems from Moody's expectation that a greater and more predictable degree of regulatory support is now available to PNB as a result of the government's increased stake in the bank.

The upgrade of the domestic currency deposits also reflects the evolving methodology that Moody's is adopting for such obligation, which places increasing analytical emphasis on local currency risk dynamics.

The government has recently increased its stake in PNB, principally by means of converting liquidity support the bank received in the year 2000 into equity.

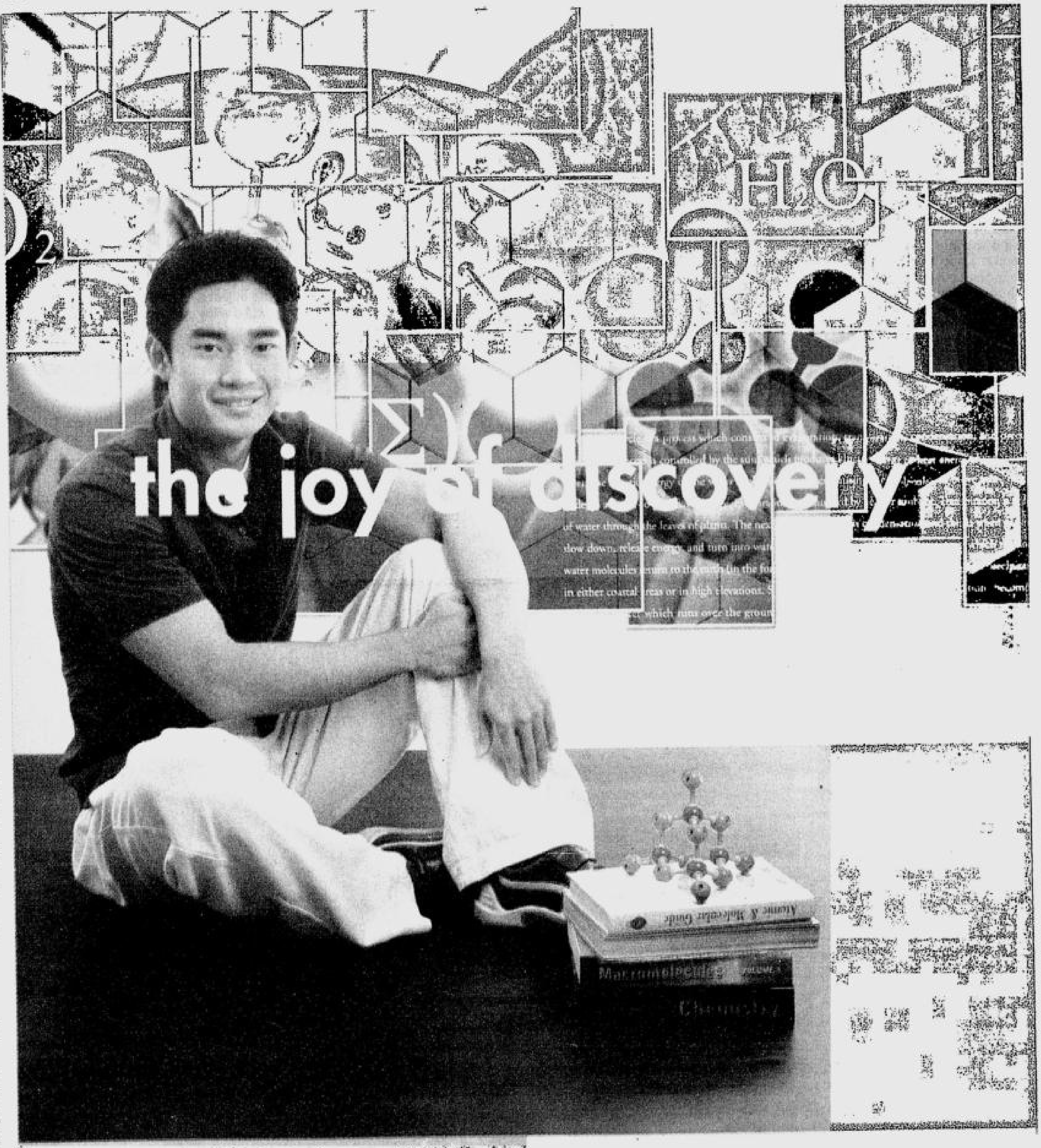
The government now has a stake of approximately 45 percent, which is equal to that of the previous majority shareholder.

However, the government does wield effective control over the bank. Consequently, Moody's believes that PNB should benefit from increased predictability of future government support, should it be required. The bank's long-term foreign currency debt and deposit ratings are at their respective sovereign ceilings for the Philippines, at Ba1 and Ba2.

The long-term domestic currency deposits are rated at Baa3, in light of the bank's significant size and important retail franchise.

PNB has entered into a government rehabilitation program.

MOODY'S/ B5



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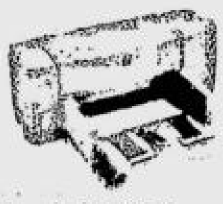

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DTI readies tougher anti-pyramiding rules

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is clamping down on unscrupulous groups and individuals using pyramiding schemes to sell consumer products due to mounting complaints from consumers.

The DTI is set to sign this month an administrative order laying down the rules and regulations of a Consumer Act provision prohibiting chain distribution plans or pyramid sales schemes in the sale of consumer products.

Based on the draft AO, the DTI wanted to inform the public on the elements that constitute unlawful business practices to enable consumers to determine what marketing plans are considered pyramid scams.

A pyramiding scheme is defined under the Consumer Act as a sales device or business scheme where participants invest in the right or chance to get compensation or gifts based on the introduction of more participants into program.

The draft AO prohibits sales schemes where agents or recruits get their income by enlisting more participants into the scheme or through the multiple resale of goods with mark-up from level to level.

The DTI noted that sales plans of pyramiding schemes normally require entry fees or compulsory purchases of a fixed quantity of products for the right to join the scheme.

The DTI said that the pyramid scam master used the fees collected from new recruits to pay off claims by old recruits. A participant's income was based on his slot depending on time, date and order of participation. Also, participants are not allowed to return the products or get a refund.

The DTI has agreed to impose harsher penalties on violators such as issuance of cease and desist order; condemnation or seizure of products; forfeiture of properties used in the scheme, and fines ranging from P12,500 to P300,000.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. reported yesterday that it has resolved three pyramiding cases where the erring firms—Mutual Benefit Leadership, Make It Happen Marketing, and Kapit-Bisig Achievers—have been asked to stop operations, refund all recruits, and cancelled their business names and fined between P10,000 and P20,000.

Napocor junks Meralco proposal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday said it could not shut down its power plants to give way to independent power producers like those of Manila Electric Co.

Napocor officer in charge/president Roland Quilala said in a statement that the move would make the firm's generation and transmission system unreliable and would also jack up power costs.

Quilala explained that the power firm identified which plants to run on the basis of system security, reliability and variable costs.

"These criteria are based on universally accepted standards and have been optimized (to suit) our system," the Napocor chief said.

This, he said, meant that Napocor would prioritize tapping power plants that provide the most reliable supply at the most economical terms.

"Our dispatch order is reviewed every month," Quilala said. "We make sure that we get the best mix of power plants that will optimize our system configuration."

Napocor was reacting to calls made earlier by Meralco vice president Rafael Andrada, who said Napocor could help lower the cost of purchased power adjustment costs by shutting down some of the state firm's plants.

Officials of the power distribution giant have maintained that Meralco's billings could go down by about 60 centavos per kilowatt-hour if its affiliate IPPs could run at higher capacities.

Meralco has supply contracts with Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. and First Gas Power Corp.

Asian titans clash over deal to sell First Pacific stake

HONG KONG—An attempt by Indonesia's powerful Salim group to sell its stake in troubled Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to Philippine tycoon John Gokongwei has set off a managerial fracas that stretches from Jakarta all the way to Tokyo.

Hong Kong-based and listed First Pacific Co., which is controlled by the Salims, announced last week that it planned to sell the company's 24.4-percent holding in PLDT, the Philippines' largest phone carrier, to Gokongwei in a transaction worth $925 million.

The deal would set up a joint venture to handle First Pacific's stake in PLDT and a 50.4-percent stake in a Philippine property developer, Bonifacio Land Corp. Gokongwei's group would hold a two-thirds stake.

First Pacific's executive chair, Manuel Pangilinan, a one-time protégé of the Salims, opposes the deal and is reportedly attempting to pull together a counteroffer.

PLDT president Manny Pangilinan with company chair Antonio Cojuangco during PLDT's stockholders meeting recently.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Rare in Asia

While conflicts between controlling shareholders and management are common fare in Western boardrooms, they have been relatively rare in the family-dominated Asian business world.

"In Western markets it is not at all unusual for the management of a subsidiary to want to stage a buyout in those circumstances. But management buyouts are quite unusual in Asia because most companies are under family control," said David Webb, editor of Webb-site.com, which provides independent commentary on local business affairs.

The Salims recruited Pangilinan, a Wharton School-educated Filipino, and put him in charge of building up First Pacific into an international, Western-style investment empire back in the 1980s.

But in recent years, the venture has been weighed down by its unprofitable holdings in the Philippines.

Low profile

Once Indonesia's largest conglomerate, the powerful Salim group ceded more than 100 companies to the state after its Bank Central Asia crashed in the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s. Since then, the group has kept a low profile, though it is widely thought to be using other companies to buy back its assets.

As president and chief executive of PLDT, Pangilinan has been trying to restructure the company as a mobile phone player. In his bid to prevent Gokongwei from taking control, he has turned for support to PLDT's chair, Antonio Cojuangco, scion of a rival Philippine business empire.

PLDT executives did not return phone calls yesterday.

Deal still on

A First Pacific spokesperson in Hong Kong, Sara Cheung, denied that the deal with Gokongwei was in trouble and said further that discussions were planned for later in the month. Pangilinan's position in the company remains unchanged, she said.

Still, First Pacific announced it was curtailing Pangilinan's access to confidential information regarding the deal due to "potential conflicts of interest."

Lively speculation in the Philippine media, as well as a protest against Gokongwei's bid by several hundred PLDT workers during the company's annual general meeting this week have helped to dramatize Pangilinan's situation.

Ultimately, the deal between the Salims and Gokongwei can only go through if yet another key player, Japanese telecoms giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., does not exercise its own right to bid for PLDT as No. 2 shareholder, with a 15-percent stake.

NTT undecided

NTT president Junichiro Miyazu told reporters in Tokyo this week that his company was still undecided and was considering "all possible options" regarding the proposed deal.

Pangilinan and Cojuangco would have to at least match Gokongwei's bid—PLDT faces more than $1 billion in debt obligations falling due from this year until 2004.

"Ultimately, Pangilinan is not a controlling shareholder. In these situations, it's the controlling shareholder who wins," Webb said. *AP*

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Gov't intensifies anti-piracy drive

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BUREAU of Customs will tighten up on the shipments of bootlegged products as part of the government's intensified anti-piracy drive in the face of growing US pressure to clamp down on worsening intellectual property rights transgressions in the country.

Clemente P. Heraldo, chief of the BOC internal inquiry and prosecution division, said the BOC would issue an administrative order laying down the rules and regulations in curbing the influx of fake products into the country.

The proposed AO is meant to give meaning and substance to the laws prohibiting the importation of goods or products that violate IPR and to conform with the international standards on special border control to prevent the entry into the country of infringing merchandise. It also aims to expedite the handling and disposition of fake goods and stress the seriousness of the government in its drive to combat piracy and counterfeiting of goods.

Heraldo said the AO would encourage all local and foreign owners and distributors of imported and local brands to register their products with the BOC for P2,000 each. Heraldo said the BOC would confiscate all the fake, imported goods of registered owners and distributors.

The product owners and distributors that do no register their products with the BOC can also request customs officers to issue an alert or hold-order against any importation suspected to contain infringing goods. Heraldo said the BOC would also conduct random checks on the issuance of alert or hold-orders.

Heraldo said the BOC would also create an intellectual property unit and IPR risk management and database support system to take charge of implementing the agency's specialized action on IPR protection.

Intellectual Property Office (IPO) director general Emma Francisco said the BOC move would reduce significantly the number of pirated products being sold in the country. Francisco maintained that most of the fake products sold in the country—from bags to apparel to audio-video products—come from foreign sources with only a small portion coming from local producers.

Debt yields drop as BTr offers retail bonds

YIELDS on Philippine debt papers dropped yesterday as the Bureau of Treasury held a book-building exercise for a P6-billion Retail Treasury Bond (RTBs) issue.

"The market is a little bullish. There is a big decline in bid rates by as much as 25 basis points, particularly for the three- to seven-year papers," a trader from a foreign bank said.

The Treasury yesterday repeated the book-building exercise for the retail bonds after it rejected all tenders for the paper three days ago, saying the rates were excessive and out of sync with prevailing rates in the secondary debt market.

The Treasury also cut down the offer size of the offered three-, four-, and five-year papers to P2 billion each from the original plan of P3 billion each.

"Bid rates are lower today (yesterday) since most players foresee that the RTBs will fetch lower coupon rates," a trader from a local bank said.

"I heard the five-year paper was done at 12.125 and the four-year paper at 11.4 percent in the secondary market," the trader said.

Traders said they expected the market to firm up further in the coming days given the brighter economic outlook for 2002.

Best bid yields for the three-month paper were at 5.0 percent; six-months at 5.775 percent; one-year at 6.125 percent; two-year at 9.25 percent; three-year at 10.5 percent; four-year at 11.5 percent; five-year at 12.125 percent; seven-year at 12.75 percent; 10-year at 13.05 percent; 20-year at 14.7 percent; and 25-year at 15.375 percent.

In the interbank market, the average call loan rate dropped to 7.063 percent from 7.09 percent previously.

Volume sharply rose to P2.392 billion from P582 million. There were six lenders and three borrowers.

Reuters

Moody's upgrades PNB . . .

From page B3

New senior management is being installed with a strong reform track record.

However, PNB's stand-alone financial condition is very weak, and the magnitude of structural change required at the bank is large.

The rehabilitation program is therefore expected to require some time before the bank's financial fundamentals could improve sufficiently to consider an upgrade, hence the unchanged Bank Financial Strength Rating of E. Moody's will be looking for signs that any future restoration of the bank's intrinsic strength can be sustained, in order for this rating to experience upward pressure.

Looking longer-term, positive factors for PNB's ratings include the significant franchise potential that results from its high level of name recognition, a consequence of its heritage as one of the Philippines' flagship banks.

It also has a large branch network with wide geographic coverage, that offers the potential to develop a stable retail deposit base to augment the bank's funding, and which supports a fundamentally attractive remittance business.

Rating concerns include the highly politicized issue of the bank's ownership, its susceptibility to policy pressures, and uncertainty surrounding the government's likely disposal of its stake in the bank in a few years' time.

Reuters

BSP . . .

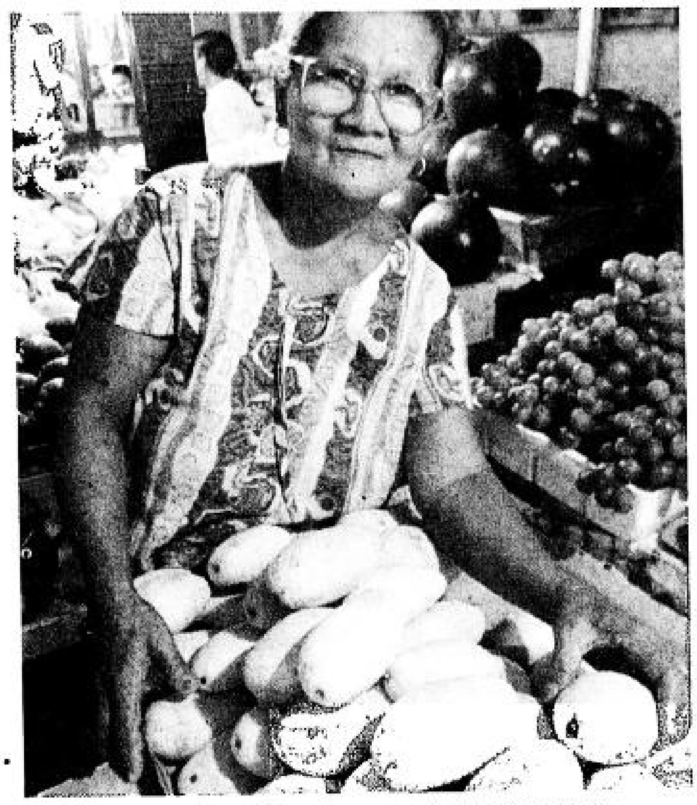
From page B3

Other local shareholders of UOB Philippines are Tony Tan Caktiong and William Tan of the Jollibee group.

Bank directors Avelino Sebastian Jr., Alfonso Reyno Jr., Victor Lazatin and Ferdinand Domingo held a press briefing early this month to lambaste the Singaporean management of the bank.

"Apart from the fact that said pronouncements were completely false and misleading, the fabricated statements made were calculated to trigger a run in the bank to the damage and prejudice of its depositors," said the UOB Philippines president.

UOB ranks 25th in terms of assets with P15.73 billion but carries the second largest ratio of nonperforming loans worth P5.5 billion or 72 percent of total loans worth P8 billion. The bank had deposits of P12.76 billion as of the first quarter.



SUPER mangoes hoped to make waves in export markets.

RP mango producers aim for bigger market in US

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

AFTER Guimaras, the rest of the country.

That was the optimistic view of Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, on the entry of Guimaras mangoes to the lucrative United States market.

He said the breakthrough was just the initial step in introducing Philippine mangoes, already the country's third top fresh fruit exports after bananas and pineapples, to the US market.

Villar, who recently attended the Philippine Mango Industry Network Inc. (PMIFI) conference in Taguig, said mango producers outside of Guimaras Island were fighting for the inclusion of their produce in the exports to the United States.

Last May, the US Department of Agriculture, after 15 years of talks with the Philippines, finally allowed the entry of Guimaras mangoes into the US market.

About 400 boxes of mangoes were recently shipped to Los Angeles, marking the first time Philippine mangoes entered the US market.

"This is only the stepping stone. Soon, all the regions will be exporting mangoes to the US," Villar said.

This is welcomed by the Ilocos region, one of the country's biggest mango producers.

The Philippines is a distant second in mango production to Mexico, which accounts for 41 percent of the United States' mango imports.

Antonio Rola, head of research and development of the National Mango Industries Network Inc., said the Philippines was blessed with the carabao mango variety, known in international trade as the Philippine super mango.

He said a comprehensive marketing plan was still needed to promote the mango industry.

"At present, the government does not have any comprehensive action plan and funding in aggressively promoting the mango industry in the world market, except the individual efforts of exporters. Pretty soon, Thailand, Mexico, Australia and other mango producing countries will slowly but surely eat up our export market share in Japan, Hong Kong and China," he said.

Food firms see difficulties in Greenpeace demands

LEADING food manufacturers in the country recently decried the alleged "undue pressure" exerted on them by European environmental group Greenpeace which demanded that they stop using raw ingredients derived from genetically modified food.

Greenpeace official Lindsey Keenan recently told local companies "to demand for non-GM raw materials from suppliers abroad despite the abundant supply of GM commodities in the world."

Greenpeace has reportedly been pressuring local food manufacturers including General Milling Co. and industry groups such as the Association of Feed Millers.

It also insisted that local companies source their raw materials from a list of suppliers supported by the group. Keenan, however, admitted that sourcing raw materials from Greenpeace suppliers "would mean additional costs of about $1,000 per 16,000 metric tons of the shipment."

General Milling Corp. director for corporate affairs Ric Pinca was quoted in earlier reports as saying that GMC "could not easily shift to non-GMO raw materials. There's a question on the availability and consistency of supply."

Local food manufacturers are also in a quandary on how the added cost will be handled. The additional costs will include expenses for various testing methods in preserving the shipment of non-GMO raw materials The additional $1,000 per metric ton would affect the price of food products; the effect may have to be passed on to Filipino consumers.

Keenan argued, according to reports, that the added cost was "minimal."

Pinca admitted that the company had to consider the list of Greenpeace suppliers. Greenpeace told local food manufacturers to import soya and corn from India and Brazil, instead of the United States and Argentina. This is because Argentina and the United States are using genetically modified seeds.

GOINGS-ON

Focus on solar energy

ELISEO B. Santiago, country chair of Shell companies in the Philippines, announced the change in the name of Shell Renewables Philippines Corp. to Shell Solar Philippines Corp. effective May 14, 2002.

The change of name brings more focus to the promotion of solar energy in improving the quality of life and increasing productivity of remote communities with no medium- or long-term potential of being connected to an electricity grid.

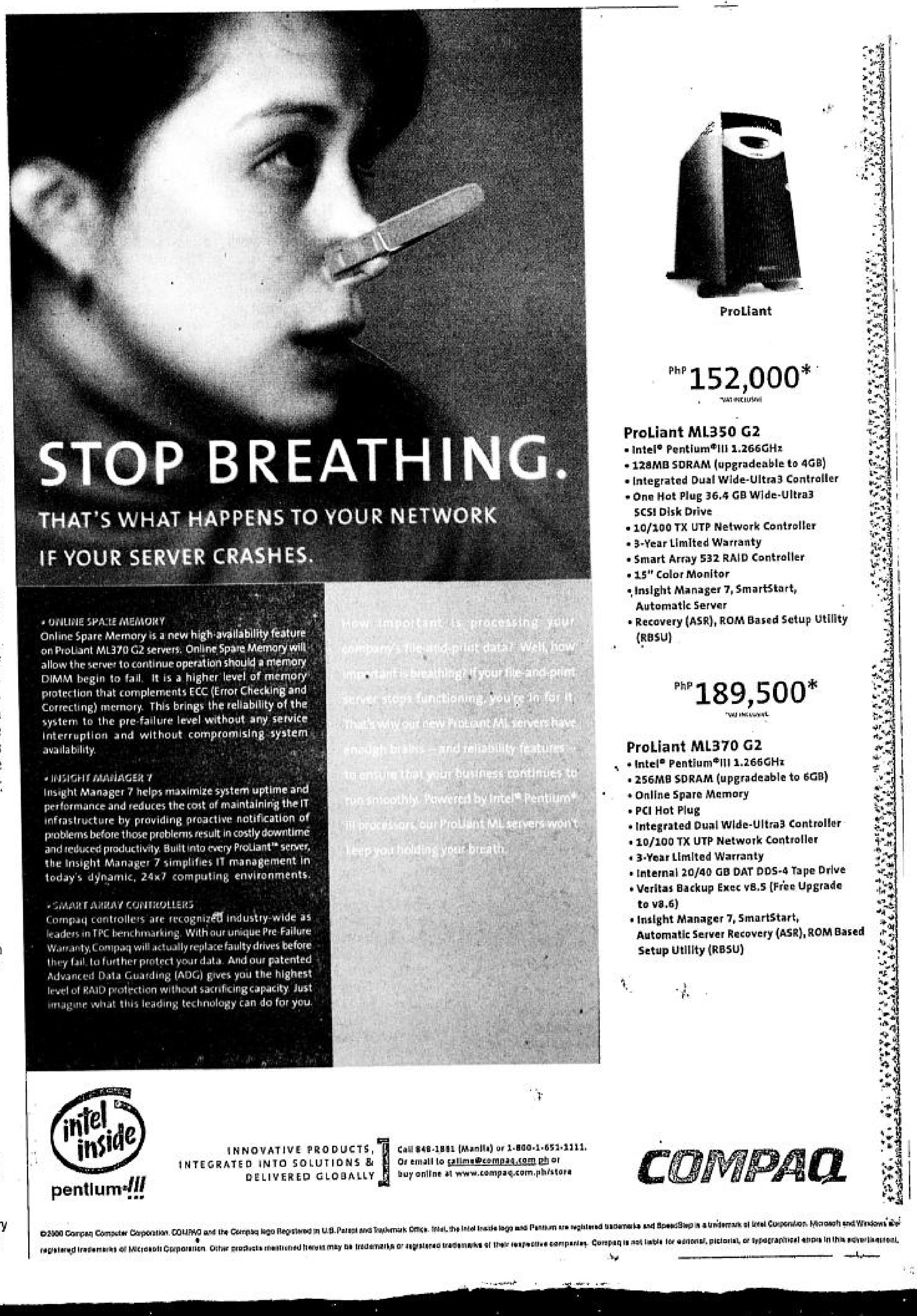
Shell Renewables was incorporated in October 1999.

Starcom, Nielsen renew deal

STARCOM Worldwide Philippines Co. Inc. has renewed its contract with Nielsen Media Research, giving one of the country's largest media agencies access to TV audience information from over 1,500 households in Metro Manila and other commercial cities nationwide.

With this new contract, Starcom Phils. gets cutting-edge consumer information from households based in Mega Manila, Dagupan City, Metro Cebu and Davao City. It will also have access to multi-city TV, national radio and print advertising expenditure data: audience and advertising information and exposure to national print readership.

Starcom Phils. said it subscribed to the most comprehensive media information and services available in the market, on top of its own proprietary research. Starcom Phils., a part of the global media services leader Starcom MediaVest, serves 75 markets worldwide



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People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Shell, The Economist launch international writing contest

SHELL and The Economist have joined forces once again to launch their third international writing prize. The $65,000 prize seeks to encourage future thinking, with the 2002 competition titled "How much freedom should we trade for our security?"

Entrants will be asked to discuss how the impact of recent events will affect the freedom and security of our day-to-day lives and interaction with different cultures and societies in the coming decades.

They can expand on a number of issues including: Do we trust and understand each other's cultures? Does any government or organization get the balance right between freedom and security? Can new technologies bring us security as well as more freedom?

The prize-winning essay will receive $20,000 and will be published in the prestigious annual publication The Economist, "The World in 2003". Two runner-up silver awards of $10,000 and five bronze awards at $5,000 will also be awarded , and all eight essays, including the first prize winner will be published on the competition website.

The competition was launched Feb. 22 with a promotional campaign in The Economist and other media. The judging panel will include Philip Watts, chair of the committee of managing directors of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group and Bill Emmott, editor of The Economist.

In launching the writing prize for the third time, Emmott said, "This year's theme reflects the changing world that we are living in and the awkward challenges it is posing. I feel sure that the topic of freedom and security will inspire some thought-provoking essays. We were pleased with the response to last year's competition and are delighted that this writing prize has continued into its third year."

Watts said, "The events of last year put the issue of personal freedom versus security very much at the forefront of people's minds. It is an issue that all of society is having to wrestle with, and I am looking forward to reading the ideas that entrants will come forward with."

The final deadline for entries will be Thursday, Aug. 15. All entries must be submitted by e-mail only, via the dedicated website www.shelleconomistprize.com. Essays should be 2,000 words in length (including a 300-word synopsis) and participants must be 18 years old and above.

WSA PHILIPPINES OFFICE BLESSING

Wireless Services Asia, the company that created the first value-added services for mobile phones in the country, formally inaugurated its Philippine office at the 11th floor of the NOL Tower in Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang. Its partners from the country's telecommunication giants Globe and Nokia were there to grace the occasion. Special guests who officiated at the ribbon cutting were (from left, first row) Tapani Sairanen, account director for Globe of Nokia Philippines, Ambassador Raimo Anttola of Finland, Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations Josefina Lichauco, and Gerardo Ablaza, president and CEO of Globe Telecom. Behind them are Rainer Leinonen, COO of WSA, Manny Gonzales, president of Mecca Systems Inc., and Ed Limon, president and CEO of WSA. WSA is one of the country's pioneers in value-added services for the mobile industry, and also holds offices in Finland and Singapore.

SWEDA-DIVERSION AGREEMENT

Sweda Systems Philippines, under the management of Sweda International Limited, and Diversion Foods Inc., principal operators of Carl's Jr. Restaurants of the United States, recently signed an agreement on Point of Sales systems for all the stores of Carl's Jr. in the Philippines. Sweda was awarded to provide the internationally known chain to handle all their POS requirements, making Sweda the largest provider of POS systems in the Philippines. Sweda is a total solution provider exclusively on retail industry, primarily in the food services industry, carrying the Compris software. Shown, from left, are DFI director for business development Efren Silva, DFI president Troy Franklin, and SSPI sales director Anthony Legaspi. For more information, call Sweda's Philippine office at 848-9818.

Mitsubishi opens Naga dealership

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp (MMPC) continues to expand its dealership network across the archipelago with the recent opening of Mitsubishi Motors Naga, which gives the people of Naga City and the Bicol region a higher level of automotive experience in quality vehicles, advanced facilities, convenient services, and genuine parts.

Marked by a Mass and a motorcade in the morning, and in the evening a simple gathering attended by officials from MMPC, Mitsubishi Motors Corp (Japan) and Nissho Iwai Corp. (Japan), and Mitsubishi Motors Naga, Naga City mayor Jesse Robredo, local financial bank institution officials, business associates, and clients, the dealership's inauguration was capped with a grand fireworks display.

Owned and operated by the newly established dealership corporation, Caleb Motors Corp., Mitsubishi Motors Naga was constructed on a 2,000-sqm lot located two kilometers south of the city proper. The dealership houses a showroom, which features a wide and spacious frontage, with high ceiling and glass walls. The dealership also boasts of a parts sales center and a full-service facility with at least 20 workbays and highly advanced service equipment. The service center takes on all kinds of repair and maintenance jobs.

Mitsubishi's growing clientele pushed for a more extensive dealership network, and its presence in the Bicol region is expected to propel Mitsubishi Motors' sales further. Also, the addition of Naga in the MMPC's already wide network will further reinforce its commitment of fully serving and providing satisfaction to Mitsubishi Motors' customers everywhere in the Philippines.

The Naga dealer outlet brings the total dealership count of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines to 39, the largest network among all vehicle assemblers and distributors.

RP hosts 2002 SEA Glaucoma meet

AGULTO

THE PHILIPPINE Glaucoma Society, led by Dr. Manuel B. Agulto, president, and Dr. Mario V. Aquino, honorary chair, invites all ophthalmologists to attend the Southeast Asian Glaucoma Interest Group (Seagig) Second Biennial Meeting scheduled from Sept. 28 to 30 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The theme of this year's meeting is "Glaucoma: Southeast Asian and Global Perspectives". World-renowned authorities in the field of glaucoma will conduct lectures, case discussions, symposia, and instructional courses on a wide range of topics. Participants to Seagig 2002 will have the opportunity to interact with international experts in glaucoma management led by Dr. Ivan Goldberg, Seagig president. The deadline for early registration and submission of abstracts is July 15. Interested parties may visit www.SEAGIG2002.org for more details.

ERRATUM

THE PHOTO Caption on the 2002 SEA Glaucoma Meet which appeared in yesterday's issue was inadvertently labeled as Dr. Aquino. The caption should be Dr. Agulto. The above release is the corrected version. Our apologies to Dr. Manuel Agulto – PEP Ed

MetroHome Rate Protect offers interest rate protection

ALTHOUGH lending rates are currently down, this is not an assurance that they won't go up in the future.

To shield borrowers from unpredictable interest rates, Metrobank, the country's largest bank, introduces a new housing loan that offers interest rate protection. In addition to offering one of the lowest interest rates in the market today, this housing loan, dubbed MetroHome Rate Protect, provides a guaranteed maximum interest to give clients protection from possible sudden rate increases, which always upset the household budget.

Currently, MetroHome Rate Protect offers a first-year interest rate of 10 percent per annum. The loan will be repriced annually in the next four years, based on prevailing market rates, with a rate guaranteed not to exceed 15.5 percent per annum. As an alternative, Metrobank also offers a fixed rate of 13 percent per annum for the first five years.

With MetroHome Rate Protect, even if interest rates shoot up in the future, the maximum interest rate that will be applied to the loan will only be 15.5 percent per annum, thus giving the borrower peace of mind.

MetroHome Rate Protect may be used to purchase a lot, a house and lot, townhouse or condominium, or to reimburse expenses incurred for the purchase or renovation of the same when no outside financing was involved.

It may also be used to refinance an existing home loan.

Metrobank is one of the first banks to offer a housing loan with the fixed-rate scheme, which frees a borrower from the anxiety brought about by sudden interest-rate increases.

Payment terms range from five to 20 years.

MetroHome Rate Protect is initially available in Metrobank's branches in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal, and parts of Bulacan and Laguna.

To qualify, a borrower from Metro Manila must have a gross monthly family income (GMFI) of at least P40,000, while a borrower from the provinces must have at least P30,000. Application fee is waived until June 30.

For more details, call the home financing division at 840-5771 to 5772, 898-9838, 898-8929, or 898-8000 local 2025 and 2611, or visit any Metrobank branch.

Product FILES

GT Tower Food and Art Gellerie opens

GT TOWER International is the symbol of upward mobility of the Philippine economy despite the crunch of uncertainty. It is the newest addition to Makati's Central Business District as it is located in the heart of Makati, along Ayala Avenue.

The 47-story blade-like structure gives the building a total height of 217 meters. To date, it surpasses surrounding buildings in both height and quality, adding a fresh dimension to the Makati skyline. It opened December last year and now is the "home" of McCann-Erickson Phils., Toyota, Mitsui & Company Ltd. of Japan, Marie France Corporate Headquarters, Orix Metro Leasing, Dupont Far East, Metrobank Trust Division and Metro Investment Corp., to name a few.

The 12th floor has its June 15 soft opening and is known as the GT Food and Art Gallerie. This thematic food court with art museum concept interior is a feast to the eyes of those diners seeking for some quiet meeting areas, dining and entertainment. A portion of the food gallery will be an art museum per se, as it will be a showroom for works of local painters. It will have a regular show for the art lovers. Food Parks by Raintree will manage the food gallery.

This futuristic art edifice is a collaboration of the American firm Kohn Pederson Fox Associates and the best talents in the Philippines.

GT Tower International was conceived, developed and is owned by Federal Land Inc. It is exclusively marketed and managed by Jones Lang La Salle. It is located at 6813 Ayala Avenue corner H. V. Dela Costa, Makati City. For more information, call 750-8000, or e-mail jeremy.smith@ap.joneslanglasalle.com.

Powerlifting
Champions

SWI TRAINERS COMPETE IN KOREA

Richie Rosales and Joemer de Leon, fitness trainers at Slimmers World International Greenhills branch, recently competed for the Philippine National Team in Donghae, Korea at the 2002 Asian Powerlifting Championships. Rosales, the 2002 Asian Bench Press silver medalist, and at present the Philippines' strongest bencher, competed in the 67.5-kg weight class while De Leon, the 1999 Asian Bench Press bronze medalist, competed in the 90-kg weight class.

TAIWAN EXECS VISIT 7-ELEVEN

Executives from the President Chain Store Corp., Taiwan's biggest retailer, recently visited selected 7-Eleven stores in the country. President Chain Store is the Taiwan licensee of the 7-Eleven chain and holds a majority stake at Philippine Seven Corp., the local licensee of 7-Eleven. Philippine Seven chair Vicente T. Paterno and president Yeong Hsiang Yeh accompanied the Taiwanese delegation. The visit kicks off Philippine Seven's 20th anniversary activities. Shown, from left, are Sam Liu, PhilSeven marketing manager, Yeong Hsiang, 7-Eleven Taiwan operations manager James Hsieh, PhilSeven operations manager Liwayway T. Fernandez, 7-Eleven Taiwan president Chung Jen Hsu, Vicente T. Paterno, PhilSeven district manager Lito Barcenas, and PhilSeven corporate planning manager Dennis Wu.

The seminar for those who want to start a business

THE ENTREPRENEURS Institute of the Philippines, headed by founding president Col. Geronimo A. Dango, will sponsor a seminar for entrepreneurs, college students, professionals and employees who are planning to put up a small business.

Titled "How to Organize and Operate a Small Business," the seminar will be held on June 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at De La Salle Greenhills, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. For details, call Monina or Mary Ann at 722-9427 or 721-2671.

A multi-awarded inventor, scientist and last year's awardee of the Huwarang Pilipino Awards 2001 in Science and Technology, Dango is a graduate of UCLA and a former professorial lecturer on International Marketing at UP and Philippine Christian University. A recipient of the prestigious Agora Award in Entrepreneurship, he is also among the few Filipinos listed in the world's "Who's Who." Also as founding president of the Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (ESP), Dango envisions to assist and promote the development of small and medium enterprises through training, workshops, seminars, consultancy, direct assistance and other support systems and activities.

Dango is also set to launch a sequel to his popular book "Entrepreneurs: Winning the Future" which has gone into third printing. Dango's new book "How to Organize and Operate a Small Business of your Own" promises to be a gem of a reference, a step-by-step guide from start-up to operational mode, complete with handy and practical tips and techniques on how to be a successful entrepreneur amidst global challenges.

G7 ministers seen cheerleading world growth

NEW YORK—Group of Seven finance ministers meet in Canada this weekend to talk up global economic recovery and to find ways to stop the financing of terror groups, analysts said.

Since they last met in April, US stocks have fallen to levels not seen since the weeks following the Sept. 11 attacks, causing a sharp pullback in investor appetite for the dollar and possibly slowing an already sluggish US recovery.

The finance ministers of the seven major industrialized nations are likely to discuss reasons behind financial market weakness, including with the rising level of distrust that investors have in US corporate accounting practices and festering worries about new terror attacks.

Since their last meeting, the Dow Jones industrial average is down 6.7 percent and the dollar has fallen 4.5 percent on a trade-weighted basis, a development that augurs poorly for controlling a yawning US current account deficit forecast to reach 5 percent of US gross domestic product next year.

"They will talk about a balanced outlook for the global economy and the participation of other countries that diversifies away from the United States as the sole engine for economic growth," said David Durrant, chief currency strategist at Bank Julius Baer in New York. "That would be a good thing for the global economy."

The finance ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States will meet in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on June 14 and 15.

Following April's meeting, the G7 stressed a determination to clamp down on groups that fund attacks such as those that leveled the World Trade Center. Analysts expect further discussions about denying those groups access to international banking networks.

"The main thing all these guys agree on is working toward rules so there are no big holes in the information gathering system globally," said Ethan Harris, co-chief US economist at Lehman Brothers in New York.

Changing landscape

The US economy, trade deficit and dollar loom over the start of the talks, a shift from the April meeting when Japan's economy and the yen dominated pre-meeting chatter.

Since April, however, there has been evidence that Japan's economy is showing signs of life. Gross domestic product in the January-to-March quarter grew 1.4 percent and Japanese stocks have outperformed US shares.

Japan's top financial diplomat, Haruhiko Kuroda, said on Wednesday that foreign exchange rates and monetary policy would not be on the meeting's official agenda because central bank chiefs won't be attending.

Traditionally, the ministers shy away from officially addressing specific currency levels at their meetings.

This weekend's meeting will lay the groundwork for the heads of government of the G8—which includes Russia in addition to the G7—who will meet in Kananaskis, Canada, from June 26-28.

Still, investors might glean some tidbits from this weekend's warm-up meeting.

"We'll be watching for the sideline comments for anything of real significance," said Rebecca Patterson, currency strategist at J.P. Morgan Chase in New York.

"The likely sort of thing we get out of these guys is calls for stability in currency markets and reiteration that currencies should reflect fundamentals and possibly even getting some veiled threats of intervention if volatility persists," Patterson added.

In late May and early June, Japan made solo interventions to stem the slide of the dollar versus the yen and has indicated it would step in again if a rapid move threatens to destabilize the markets. The dollar is trading just above a six-month low against the Japanese currency at 124.80 yen, while edging away from a 17-month trough against the euro at 94.70 cents.

"I think everyone would be a little more comfortable if the dollar were a little weaker and the current account balance was either stable or falling, rather than rising," said Harris.

Cheerleading for growth

Analysts expect the meeting to focus on the global economic recovery taking shape this year, after the turndown that was exacerbated by the Sept. 11 attacks.

"They'll downplay concerns for the economy and play up the medium term improving nature of the global economy, which is quite right," said Patterson. *Reuters*

Drop in US retail sales sparks recovery concerns

WASHINGTON—Retail sales in the United States fell a steeper than expected 0.9 percent in May, the government said Thursday, prompting concerns about the pace of the US economic recovery.

The decline followed a 1.2-percent rise in April and was the biggest drop in retail sales since November. It also was steeper than expected by Wall Street economists.

The drop prompted economists to question their assumptions for the recovery of the US economy as it emerges from recession, since consumer spending represents about two-thirds of gross domestic product.

"This release will shake investor confidence that consumption is going to remain a pillar of the economic recovery," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo.

"Weaker consumption means more trouble for corporate profits and may mean a return of business investment could be put on hold."

"A variety of non-auto categories came in weaker than expected," said Henry Willmore of Barclays Capital.

"Some of this might represent 'giveback' from robust April results. Nevertheless, we are trimming our estimate of second-quarter real consumption growth from 2.5 percent to 1.5 percent.

"We are leaving our estimate of second-quarter GDP growth at 5 percent because these data may tell us more about the mix between final sales and inventories than overall growth. The data do suggest some clear downside risks to our strong near-term outlook."

"The sharp decline in May retail sales raises the key question of whether the pace of consumer spending is slowing disconcertingly, or whether May was just an off month where a number of things just went the wrong way," said Anthony Karydakis of Bank One. *AFP*

FEDERAL prosecutors Andrew Weissman (right) and Matt Friedrich arrive at the federal courthouse in Houston, Texas, for the Arthur Andersen trial on June 13. Judge Melinda Harmon issued a Dynamight Charge that sent jurors back into deliberations. AFP

S&P expects few US companies to become corporate 'rising stars'

NEW YORK—A host of giant corporations have watched the ratings on their bonds sink to "junk" from "investment-grade," and credit rating agency Standard & Poor's warns not to expect a rush of companies heading in the other direction—especially not in the United States.

Thirty companies with $47 billion of bonds have fallen to junk status this year from investment-grade. In the last five weeks, phone companies Qwest Communications International Inc. Q.N. and WorldCom Inc. have joined the ranks of these "fallen angels."

In contrast, S&P said just 20 companies, including West Coast thrift Golden State Bancorp and motor oil maker Pennzoil-Quaker State Co., are positioned to enjoy a bump up in their credit ratings to investment-grade from junk, as the economic recovery appears fitful.

"Rising stars have proved increasingly difficult to find," wrote Diane Vazza, S&P's head of global fixed-income research.

S&P defines a "rising star" as a company whose credit rating rises to "BBB-minus" or higher from "BB-plus" or lower. It is rare that a company's rating vaults directly to investment-grade from below "BB-plus."

So far this year, 17 companies with $28.4 billion of bonds have risen to investment-grade from junk, S&P said. Ten of these, however, were upgraded specifically because of improving credit conditions in Mexico.

Just four of the 17 have been in the United States. At that rate, S&P said, the annual total of US rising stars would remain below the record annual low of 15, set in 1991, which coincided with the last US economic recession.

Of the 20 potential rising stars, S&P is reviewing seven for possible upgrade, and has positive outlooks on the remaining 13, seven carry "BB-plus" ratings. Golden State Bancorp is being bought by Citigroup Inc., and Pennzoil by Royal Dutch/Shell Group. *Reuters*

China retail sales rebound in May

BEIJING—China said its retail sales rose 9.3 percent in May from a year earlier as consumers splurged on food and travel during a week-long holiday that helped generate the strongest performance so far this year.

Retail sales were 320.2 billion yuan ($38.6 billion) in the month, the State Statistical Bureau said in a statement.

It did not give a figure for the January to May period, but a bureau official told Reuters sales rose a year-on-year 8.6 percent to 1.63 trillion yuan in the first five months.

Sales rose 8.2 percent in April and 8.4 percent in the first four months of this year in what analysts said was lackluster performance compared with 10.1-percent growth for all of 2001.

Retail sales in cities were 204.9 billion yuan in April, up 10.8 percent from a year earlier, the bureau said.

Sales in rural areas, where incomes have stagnated, rose 6.8 percent to 115.2 billion yuan, the bureau said.

The government is aiming for 10-percent growth in retail sales this year as one piece of its plan to achieve overall economic growth of 7 percent this year, a level it deems crucial for creating jobs and maintaining social stability.

Growth in domestic consumption has lagged that of industrial output and exports, two other pillars of the economy which have rebounded this year amid state stimulus spending and a global economy recovery.

A week-long Labor Day holiday in early May had helped boost consumption and travel, the bureau said.

"During the May 1st 'Golden Week,' spending by domestic residents on travel grew at a high pace," the bureau said, noting that tourists spent 14.9 percent more than in the same holiday last year.

"Businesses also took advantage of the holiday opportunity to carry out promotional activities, which caused consumer markets in urban tourist centers to be even more active," the bureau said.

Sales in the food service industry that covers restaurants grew 15.8 percent while sales of foodstuffs in stores and markets rose 13 percent in May. Clothing sales rose 7.9 percent, the bureau said.

Big-ticket items also saw solid gains, as automobile sales rocketed 64.4 percent, building and decoration materials jumped 28.3 percent and furniture rose 17.5 percent, it said.

"Because new models of family cars are constantly coming out, and prices are cheaper, and it is becoming simpler and more convenient to buy, the automobile market has been increasingly brisk," the bureau said. Also, unusually hot weather in northern China had spurred sales of air-conditioners and electric fans, the bureau said.

Heat of another kind, World Cup soccer fever, had prodded along sales of televisions and memorabilia. Sales of home electronics and video equipment rose 7.9 percent in the month, the bureau said. *Reuters*

Thai govt to decide on debt bailout bill

BANGKOK—Thailand's Cabinet is due to review proposals next week for dealing with an over 700 billion baht ($16.6 billion) bill for salvaging its stricken bank sector in the 1990s, officials said on Friday.

The government is trying to decide the best way to deal with the debts incurred by the Financial Institutions Development Fund (FIDF), a unit of the Bank of Thailand (BOT) set up to bail out banks and finance companies.

Sommai Phasee, deputy permanent secretary for finance, told Reuters the finance ministry would ask the Cabinet to vet plans that include the issue of government debt paper for refinancing the FIDF's debts.

"I think the plan will be put on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting next week because we are approaching the government budget debate in parliament. Finance Minister Somkid (Jatusripitak) will announce the details," Sommai said.

A finance ministry source said earlier this week the government planned to issue about 320 billion baht of bonds by September to partially refinance the FIDF's debt. He said the ministry proposed that new bonds be issued with three- or seven-year maturity.

The central bank has denied reports it would monetize the FIDF debt by effectively printing money. BOT Governor Pridiyathorn Devakula said earlier this month that in dealing with FIDF's burden, he would avoid doing anything that would lead to inflationary pressure.

Any new bonds issued to refinance the FIDF debt would come on top of some 112 billion baht of three and five-year FIDF bonds sold to institutional investors in 2001.

Prior to that, 500 billion baht of government bonds were issued in 1998/99 to raise funds for the same purpose.

Previous Thai governments assigned the FIDF to bail out or take over about half a dozen Thai banks and over 60 finance companies in 1996-1998 during Thailand's worst economic crisis in decades. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary

Asian stocks wilt on weak US sales data

SINGAPORE—Asian stock markets tumbled on Friday, led by a 2-percent slide in Japanese shares, as weak US retail sales data and broad selling on Wall Street deflated export-oriented markets.

Japan's Nikkei average was the hardest hit, tumbling more than 2 percent, followed by sharp falls in Hong Kong and Singapore. Shares in South Korea reversed an early rally to close barely changed.

The dollar was sold off briefly after six Pakistanis were killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack outside the US consulate in the port city of Karachi. At 0624 GMT the dollar was quoted at 124.76 yen, and stood at 0.9443 to the euro.

The Nikkei lost 2.01 percent or 224.21 points to 10,920.63, its lowest close since March 1.

Brokers blamed persistent fears about the state of the Japanese economy for exacerbating a fall that had begun on fears about the weak US data.

"I can't be optimistic about the outlook for the Japanese economy. Personal consumption and capital spending are still weak, and the so-called recovery is reliant on external demand from the United States and Asia," said Koichi Ogawa, chief portfolio manager at Daiwa SB Investments.

Growing pessimism over the stock market's prospects took its toll on Japan's top broker Nomura Holdings Inc., which fell 2.96 percent to 1,866 yen to extend the previous session's 6.2-percent tumble.

US stocks fell and bonds rallied on Thursday after soft May retail sales sparked concern a pull-back in consumer spending could leave the economy too weak to boost sagging corporate profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1.19 percent or 114.91 points to 9,502.80 while the tech-biased Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 1.46 percent, to close at a fresh eight-month low of 1,496.89.

Retail sales chalked up their sharpest monthly decline since November, hurt by slower auto sales and lower prices at the gas pump, the US Commerce Department said. Overall sales slid 0.9 percent. Excluding autos, sales fell 0.4 percent.

NYMEX crude futures were higher on after-hours ACCESS trade extending New York's hefty price gains as lower supplies buoyed the market, but showing little reaction to the Pakistan bombing.

Front-month July crude futures traded at a session high of $25.79 a barrel by 0510 GMT, gaining another 15 cents after the contract jumped $1 in New York on Thursday. *Reuters*

Singapore jobless rate to continue rising, report says

SINGAPORE—Singapore's escalating jobless rate is unlikely to be arrested until next year despite signs of improving economic indicators, according to a government report released Friday.

In continued fallout from the recession, "job creation remained weak," the manpower ministry said in a review of the first quarter.

The unemployment rate hit 4.5 percent at the end of March from 4.4 percent in December and was expected to continue deteriorating for the rest of the year.

Seasonally adjusted, the number of jobless was put at 85,600.

"Jobs will remain a concern this year as employment growth typically lags economic recovery," the report said.

"If the recovery is sustained, unemployment is expected to come down next year."

The grim outlook reflects a recent warning by Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong who said in a Labor Day message last month that unemployment was projected to reach 5.5-6 percent this year.

Singapore's worst unemployment rate of 6 percent was posted during the 1986 recession.

The labor market shrank by 13,848 jobs in the first quarter, marking the third consecutive quarterly decline, with the construction industry hardest hit losing nearly 10,000 jobs.

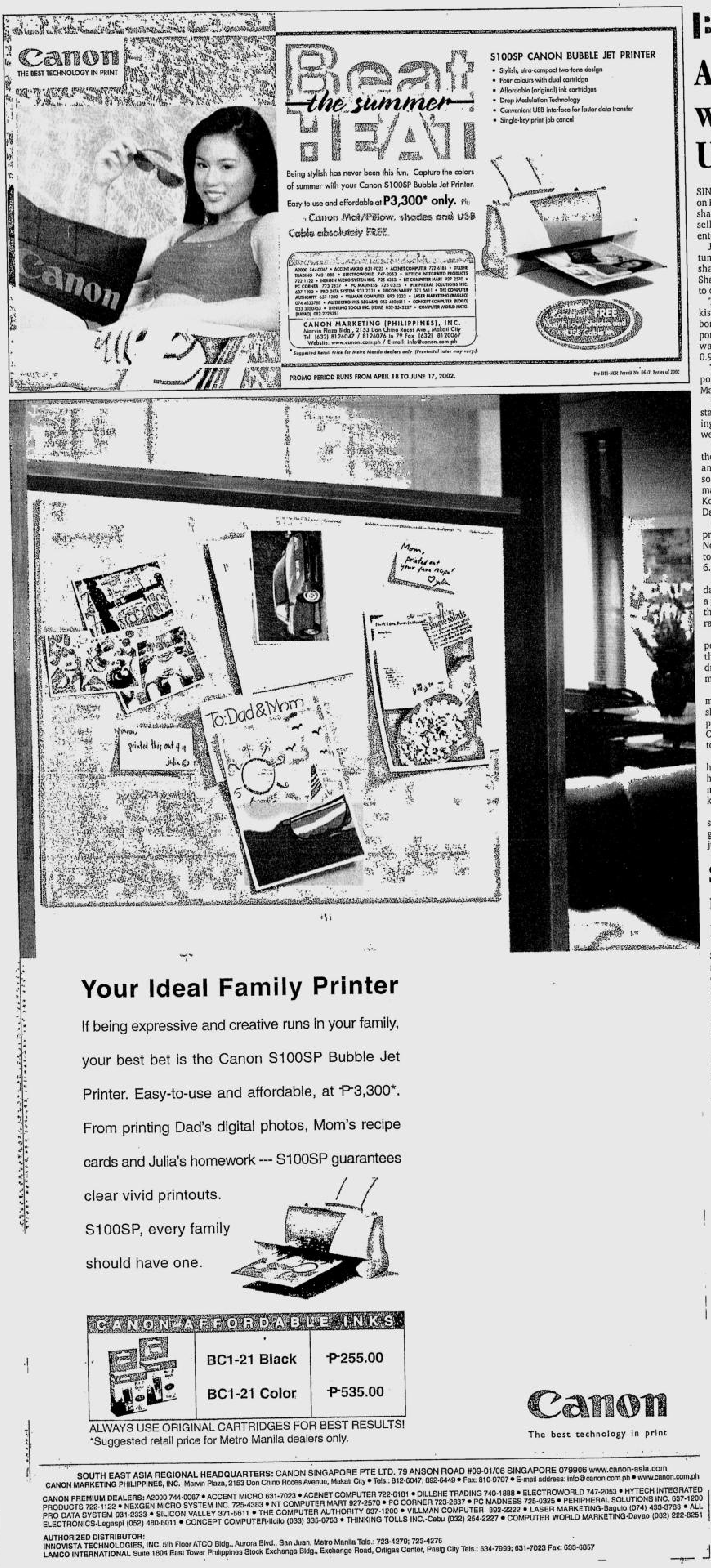
Job prospects for retrenched workers had hit a new low, the report said, with only half of the locals laid off in the fourth quarter of last year finding new work by the end of March.

But the improving economic conditions changed the pattern of retrenchments, with layoffs now coming as a result of company restructuring rather than industry downturn and business failure.

Although ministry figures showed the lower educated workers were bearing the brunt of job losses, the recent wave of job cuts had affected white collar workers driven by reorganization of the banking sector.

Degree and diploma holders accounted for 32 percent of the near 5,000 retrenchments in the March quarter, and workers in the 30-39 age group were targeted as much as older staff.

"The data added to evidence that increasingly retrenchment is extending beyond the older and less educated mid-career workers as the pace of economic restructuring gathers momentum," the report said. *AFP*



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A WOMAN pushes a loaded shopping cart at a hypemart in Kuala Lumpur Thursday. Malaysian are continuing with their merry spending ways, and analysts expect consumer confidence to remain high for the rest of the year despite uncertainties over a quick US recovery because consumers are feeling more secure about their future, economists said. AP

Japan bankruptcies rose 3.4 % in May, says group

TOKYO—Japanese bankruptcies rose 3.4 percent month-on-month in May and look set to go higher despite signs Japan's economy is emerging from its worst postwar recession, a private research firm said on Friday.

Teikoku Databank said the number of corporate bankruptcies in May came to 1,696, marking the fifth straight month failures totaled over 1,600 and putting 2002 on track for the second largest number of corporate failures in the postwar era.

"In the midst of this deflationary environment, bankruptcies are showing a remarkable increase," Teikoku said in a statement.

However, the number of firms that failed in May represented a year-on-year decline of 1.6 percent, the first in five months.

Total debt held by firms that went bankrupt in May declined 15 percent month-on-month but rose 6.2 percent year-on-year to 1.08 trillion yen ($8.64 billion).

May marked the ninth straight month that bankruptcy debt totaled over 1 trillion yen, and the 1.08 trillion yen total was the third largest for May in the postwar era.

Teikoku said that even though the Japanese government had declared the economy past its worst and Japan posted its best economic growth in two years in the first quarter of 2002, bankruptcies would continue to soar through the rest of the year.

"We are nowhere near the point at which we can really say that the economy has bottomed out," the research firm said.

"The more positive recent news is largely limited to industries like automobiles and the IT-related sectors, and the problems with consumer spending will continue as fears about high unemployment and salary cuts weigh heavily."

The May bankruptcies brought the total number of cases so far in calendar 2002 to 8,457, a 7.5-percent rise from the same period last year and the second highest ever, after 1984, for the January-May period.

Medium-sized paper maker Nippon Kakoh Seishi Co. Ltd. went bust in May, becoming the 19th listed firm to fail in 2002.

Reuters

SEC reopens probe into Tyco's books

NEW YORK—The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has reopened a 1999 investigation into troubled Tyco International Ltd.'s acquisition and accounting practices, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

Tyco officials could not be contacted for immediate comment.

The report comes just hours after Tyco said the SEC was opening a formal investigation into the company's former chief executive, Dennis Kozlowski. He resigned last week and shortly after was arraigned in a New York criminal court on charges that he schemed to avoid paying sales tax on artwork.

"The company is not aware of any other pending investigation into its accounting practices other than on these issues," Tyco said in the release on Kozlowski's probe. Bermuda-based Tyco is also conducting its own probe into the executive's conduct.

Citing a source with knowledge of the probe, the Journal said on Thursday that the SEC is looking at whether Tyco used reserves and other bookkeeping strategies to boost financial results following an acquisition binge.

Kozlowski ran Tyco for nearly a decade and was instrumental in building it from a little-known company into a sprawling international conglomerate through hundreds of acquisitions valued at about $62 billion.

The Journal added that the SEC is also probing whether Tyco convinced newly acquired companies to pay expenses ahead of time in order to defer revenues as part of a plan to make acquisitions look financially successful.

Controversy over Tyco heated up with the October 1999 release of a critical report by Dallas money-management firm David W. Tice Associates which said that Tyco's accounting methods obscured the company's true results.

Late that year, the SEC launched an informal inquiry into Tyco's acquisition-accounting practices.

The Journal said that Tyco acquired more than 120 companies in a six-year period in the 1990s for more than $30 billion, and took about $3 billion in restructuring charges in conjunction with those deals.

After a nine-month probe, Tyco said the SEC had informed it by letter that the investigation had been terminated without taking any enforcement action, the report added.

Reuters

Heinz to spin off slow businesses

CHICAGO—H.J. Heinz Co. has decided ketchup doesn't mix with tuna and cat food.

The world's No. 1 ketchup maker Thursday said it would ditch its slower growing businesses—StarKist canned tuna, pet foods, soup and baby formula—and merge them with Del Monte Foods Co., the largest US distributor of canned fruits and vegetables.

The complicated deal, valued at $1.77 billion, creates a new Del Monte company that will be majority owned by Heinz shareholders. It makes Heinz a slimmer company, slicing off $1.8 billion in annual sales, and will enable it to focus on its core Heinz ketchup, condiments, and fast-growing frozen foods like its Boston Market meals.

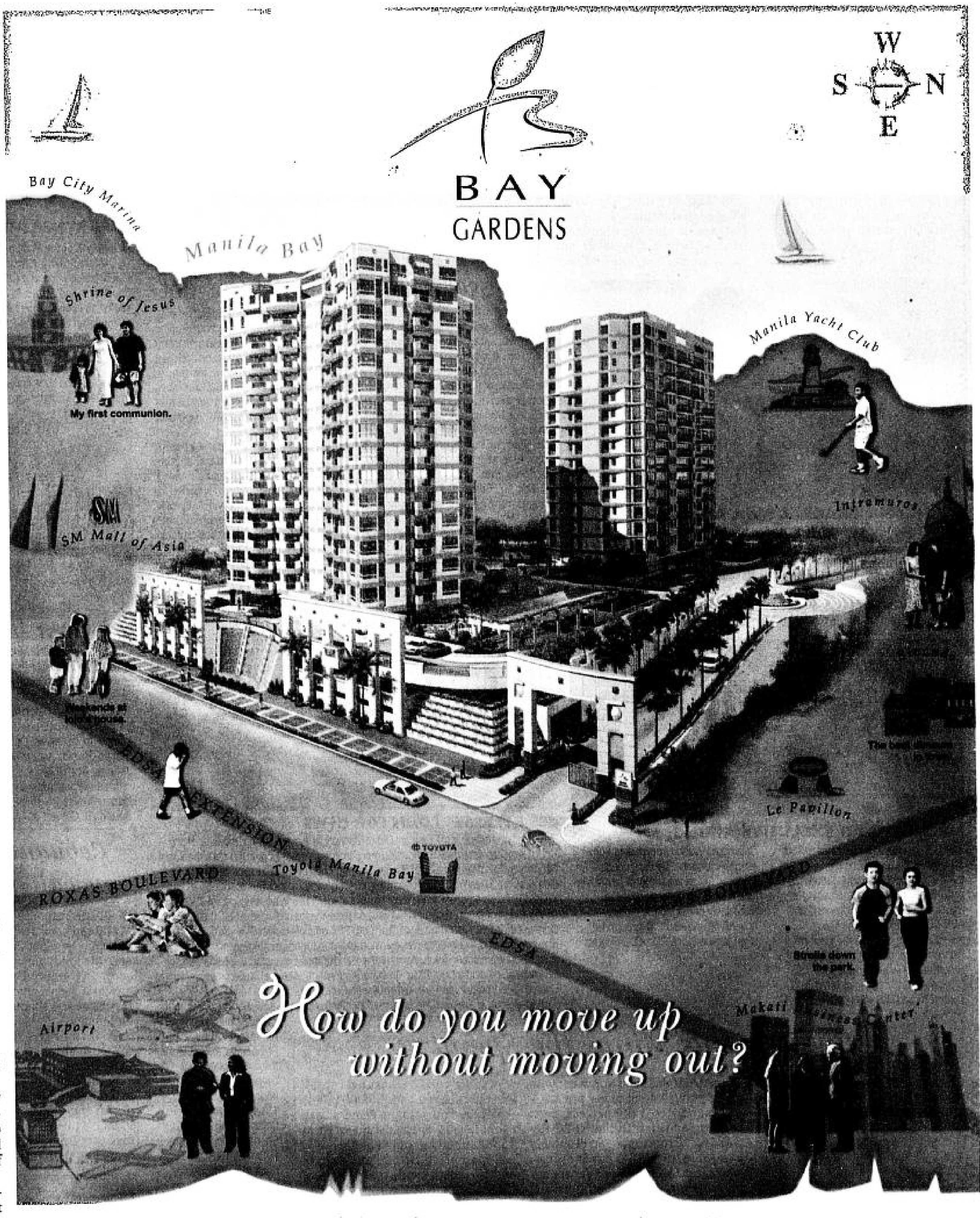
The divestment follows a move by Procter & Gamble Co. in October to sell its Jif peanut butter and Crisco cooking oil to jelly maker J.M. Smucker Co. in a similarly structured deal that handed Procter & Gamble shareholders about $1 billion worth of Smucker stock.

The Heinz move, disclosed as Heinz reported a 31-percent increase in quarterly earnings, was long anticipated on Wall Street. Investors and analysts have pressed the company to improve earnings and crank up its stock price, which has lagged its peers.

Even so, some analysts weren't impressed by the move, and Heinz's stock fell 7.2 percent to $38.61 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange. One analyst said the only way to make money on Heinz's stock is if the Pittsburgh-based company gets bought out.

"This is not an instant win for Heinz shareholders," said Prudential Securities analyst John McMillin. "Longer term it may be a win. The way it wins is if the remaining piece of Heinz is more digestible by a Unilever or a Kraft."

Reuters



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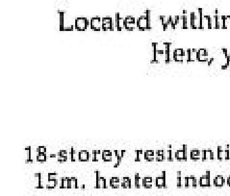
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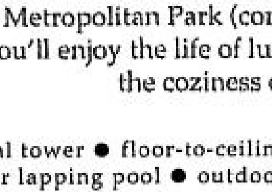
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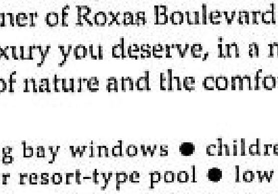
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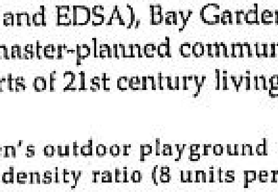
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Nestle Pure Life effectively keeps the body healthy

WATER remains the single most important requisite in our daily lives. While we can go without food for a month or longer, we cannot do without water for more than two to five days.

At all stages of a person's life—from childhood to old age—water plays an important role in keeping the body healthy. For babies, it helps ensure proper growth. For children and adolescents, it replenishes body fluids lost during playtime and other physical activities. Adults, on the other hand, need water to ensure proper functioning of body organs. And for the elderly, water keeps the risk of dehydration and other health problems at bay.

But despite the obvious need for adequate water intake, many still fall short of the required allowance of eight glasses of safe and healthy water everyday. But what is in water, particularly in Nestle Pure Life, which makes it effective in keeping the body healthy?

Specific types of water contain minerals that have significant positive effects on health. Minerals are vital to organ systems function and are easily absorbed by the body in a medium such as water.

Calcium, for example, is the most abundant mineral in the body, with properties that strengthen teeth and bones, encourages proper conduction and regulation of nerve impulses, muscle contraction, body fluid balance, production of hormones and heart rhythm regulation. Magnesium, also found in mineral water, is the body's natural stress reducer. Most of the body's magnesium is concentrated in the muscles and bones, strengthening the immune system, aiding in the control of blood pressure, and relaxing the muscles, particularly after exercise.

Bicarbonates and chlorides, on the other hand, help maintain and regulate the acid balance in the stomach and intestines. It aids the digestion process, which may settle an upset stomach. While sodium is important to maintain the balance of water in the body, it also regulates electrolyte levels controlled by the kidneys, and ensures normal muscle contraction.

Each bottle of Nestle Pure Life contains safe and healthy water, remineralized with a balanced recipe of essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, sodium, bicarbonate, sulfate and fluoride. Ideal levels of fluoride in Nestle Pure Life combined with calcium protect and aid tooth development in children.

In a visit to the Philippines, Dr. Maurice Arnaud, a member of the scientific council of the French Institute of Nutrition and Nestle's resident water expert, explained the need for ideal levels of fluoride in water to enhance its capability to protecting teeth.

"The challenge is determining the right amount of fluoride and attaining the acceptable range between protection and fluorosis (an abnormal condition typified by spotting of the teeth) in drinking water," Arnaud explained. His research showed that for tropical countries such as the Philippines where water intake is frequent the ideal fluoride level is 0.5 mg/liter. In countries with cooler climates, Europe, the ideal level is 0.7 mg/liter, which is the amount the World Health Organization recommends for daily consumption.

The water expert mentioned that the nature of mineral water is a more distinct taste with the increase of minerals in the water. "Although we know the importance of the mineral water content that we wish to reach, we also acknowledge the preferred taste that is acceptable. We know that minerals such as magnesium leave a bitter taste to water, that's why the mineral composition of Nestle Pure Life is a balance between health and taste," Arnaud explained.

These should give people more reasons to drink the recommended eight glasses of water everyday to replenish lost fluids and maintain proper hydration for the whole family.

GUINGONA GRACES OWWA ANNIVERSARY

Vice President and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teofisto Guingona listens intently to Owwa administrator Wilhelm D. Soriano during the agency's 20th year May 4. The presence of the Vice President made the simple celebration of Owwa's milestones truly worth remembering. The DFA reiterates its support to Owwa's programs and services as it backs OFWs' clamor for the Owwa to be under the helm of the DFA.

Latest collection of Nike Prestos out

NIKE brings to the Philippines its newest collection of snazzy Nike Presto shoes, which will surely excite the legions of Presto fanatics in the country.

Available in all outlets of Nike Park, Nike Forum and Nike Stadium, the newest collection of Nike Prestos include the Nike Air Presto, the Nike Air Presto Chanjos, the Nike Air Presto Gym and the Nike Air Presto Woven. They all come in more stylish designs and colors to choose from.

The Air Presto, designed to be the snuggest-fitting shoe to ever hug and comfort your feet, now comes in updated new colors. The fresh new look for the Air Presto puts added pizzazz to this cool, lightweight running shoe.

The Nike Air Presto Chanjo continues the revolution with Nike's unique approach to fit, comfort and sizing in a lightweight running shoe. You get the comfort and design of a technical running shoe offered in a casual, warm-up or post-race shoe. You'll want to own every color. It offers a unique slip-on sock-like comfortable fit designed to accommodate variable foot sizes and combines outsole and midsole for a simple and lightweight ride, with a BRS 1000 heel plug for extra durability.

Taking off from the original Air Presto, the Nike Air Presto Gym has a lightweight phylon midsole and a molded midfoot overlay for fit and support. Its non-stretch outrigger provides superior lateral support. Its superbreathable stretch mesh upper allows for adaptable fit.

The Nike Air Presto Woven, on the other hand, has a woven dynamic stretch mesh upper, with molded midfoot support overlays, which offer sock-like, ultra-comfortable fit.

HOUSING CONFAB FOR GOV'T WORKERS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issues a series of directives to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Pag-Ibig Fund to speed up the provision of housing for government employees during the recent Conference on Housing spearheaded by the Philippine Government Employees' Association (PGEA). Listening to the President are (from left) lawyer Romero Quimbo, acting president and CEO of Pag-Ibig Fund, Antonio Miloto, head, social ministry, Couples for Christ, Esperanza Ocampo, president of the PGEA, Secretary Mike Defensor, chair of the HUDCC, Jose Tale, Deputy Executive Secretary, and Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS.

UNIONBANK
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A PARTNERSHIP OF SERVICE

UnionBank of the Philippines chair and CEO Justo A. Ortiz (second from right) and Meralco chair and CEO Manuel M. Lopez (second from left) recently sealed an evolving business relationship dubbed 'A Partnership of Service' between the two companies. UnionBank recently offers its bills payment facility for Meralco. Through this facility, the bank accepts payments from Meralco customers via the Internet (among the first banks to offer this service), ATMs, and over-the-counter transaction through its branches. With the partnership, the public can expect strengthened ties between the two companies and more value-added projects in the next few months. Also shown are UnionBank president and COO Victor B. Valdepeñas (extreme left) and Meralco president and COO Jesus P. Francisco.

Official Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement
"Flu Aw ness Campaign Year 2"
Aventis

AVP, CHEST PHYSICIANS SIGN MOA

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians and Aventis Pasteur Philippines Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement on the Flu Awareness Campaign recently at Gloria Maris Restaurant. Shown seated, from left, are Dr. Josephine B. Blanco-Ramos, vice president, Dr. Jennifer Ann R. Mendoza-Wi, immediate past president, Dr. Ma. Consuelo Mison-Obillo, president, Dr. Benilda B. Galvez, council chair on Lung Infection and Tuberculosis, Dr. Leonora C. Fernandez, council chair on COPD. Standing, from left, are Dr. John Cresencio F. Alonzo, co-chair in Lung Infection and Tuberculosis, Dr. Yuri Castillo, medical director, AvP, Paul-Alan Dollinger, country manager of AvP, Dr. Joselito Sta. Ana, VP for sales and marketing, AvP, Dr. Rubai Dizon, medical project manager, AvP, and Ramon Caray, product manager, AvP.

LIPOVITAN AD EXCLUSIVE AIRING

Taisho Pharmaceuticals Philippines, makers of Lipovitan, the best-selling energy drink in the Philippines, recently signed a contract with ABS-CBN for the exclusive airing of the Lipovitan advertising in Channel 2 and ABS-CBN's regional stations. The advertising campaign stresses Lipovitan's highest quality ingredients, including the purest form of Taurine from Japan. Signing the contract are Shoichi Maejima, Taisho GM, and ABS-CBN SVP Nick Gabunada. Also shown (standing, from left) are Ace Villareal, Taisho product manager, Ed Estrada and Virgil Jamila, VPs for account management and media, respectively, of Image Dimensions Advertising, and ABS-CBN group head Gina Mariano and AVP Dave Dominguez.

SSS RELEASES LOAN FOR OFWS

In line with the directive of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit in Hong Kong last year to fast-track the housing program for overseas Filipino workers, the Social Security System has released to Bansan C. Choa, chair of Confed Properties Inc., Grandeur (HK) Realty Specialists, and Iremit Hong Kong, a check representing the housing loan take-out of OFWs under the allocated P3-billion housing loan of SSS for OFWs and trade labor unions. Shown is Choa receiving the check from SSS president Corazon de la Paz. Also shown are (from left) SSS officials lawyer Sylvette C. Sybico, department head, foreign branch expansion and monitoring, Judy Frances A. See, assistant vice president for international affairs and branch expansion, Luz Generoso, assistant vice president and OIC, real estate department, Jose Joel Pusta, vice president of Confed Properties Inc. and president of Kassel Condominium Corp., and Harris D. Jacildo, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Iremit. For inquiries about the SSS housing loans remittance to the Philippines, call any of the following branches of Grandeur and Iremit: 21st floor, Lidong Building, 7-11 Lik Yuen Street, Central, Hong Kong, Sar Shop 104 Worldwide Plaza, 19 Des Voeux Road, Central Hong Kong, Sar Unit 280 Lik Sang Plaza.

Cebuana Lhuillier extends renewal payments hours, days

IN QUICK response to the growing needs of its customers, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshops all over the Philippines have started accepting renewal payments for pawned items even after the regular renewal hours, and even on Sundays.

To further give its customers the convenience of renewing their loans, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop branches have begun extending the acceptance of renewal payments up until the branch's overtime hours, which may vary from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Branches that are also open on Sundays have also started accepting renewal payments.

Previously, customers could renew their loans up to 5:30 p.m. only during regular working days of Mondays to Fridays. With the new schedules, customers can now have more time to visit their nearest Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop to transact business.

Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop, however, suggests that customers should first check with their respective branches if they are open until evenings and on Sundays before they drop by.

Big Rewards Minus the Spend

Rewards. Anyone carrying a credit card can figure this out. You use your card and get points corresponding to the pesos you spend. The more you spend, the more points you gain. Before you know it, you've gathered enough points to finally take a serious look at your bulky rewards catalogue. You flip through the pages of dozens and dozens of appliances, toys, accessories and gift items. You finally settle for a thermos. It's handy. It's useful. And it costs a fortune! You do the math and find out that you've spent so much to get so little.

The good news is that not all rewards are created equal. For the first time in any rewards program, you can redeem the items you want with fewer points and at lower prices.

Super Offer is the newest, most exciting addition to the HSBC Rewards Program, exclusively available to HSBC cardholders, who already enjoy the best spending-to-points conversion rate in the industry (every P10 spent on your HSBC credit card earns you one Reward point). With Super Offer, you can redeem popular and practical premium items using fewer points.

For instance, for only 2,000 points + P300 only, you can redeem a stylish coffeemaker—and for the same number of points + only P400, an additional desk fan in the house is not a bad idea.

A cable-ready Samsung 14" TV will only set you back 35,000 points + P4,000 and a Canon camera with zoom lens is an irresistible offer at 15,000 points + only P3,800.

Redemption is easy and convenient . For three days, from June 13-15, 2002, HSBC cardholders can call 878-7880 between 9 am to 5 pm to check their points and choose their Rewards. Items may be claimed at selected SM Appliance Centers.

You can avail of these items using your HSBC Rewards points only or through Fast Track, starting May 15, 2002 until Sept. 30 but you get the best deal when you redeem them during the Super Offer period.

Item	Redeemed through Points Only	Redeemed through Fast Track	**Redeemed through Super Offer**
Turbo Broiler	38,000 points	15,000 points + P1,000 only	**7,500 points + P850 only**
Table Lamp	4,000 points	N/A	**1,000 points + P100 only**

"HSBC is always looking for ways to give our cardholders the most value out of using their HSBC cards. Super Offer provides great rewards with less spend. This is only the first of a series of Super Offer Rewards from HSBC.

PRU LIFE INTERNATIONAL CONFAB

Pru Life UK, the only British life insurer in the Philippines, recently held its International Convention in Barcelona, Spain. The all-expense paid trip was participated in by more than 60 delegates, the top 10 of whom were treated to an extension trip to London, where the Pru Life UK mother company, Prudential of UK, holds office. Heading the Pru Life UK delegation are Bobby Madrid, president and CEO (9th from left) and Victor Español, SVP and chief agency officer (extreme left). Receiving the group to the event is Prudential Asia's Dan Bardin, managing director for South Asia (fifth from right). The delegates are shown holding their certificates (from left) Ma. Isabel Cokai, Debbie Borromeo, Nellie King, Katherine Yap, Gwendolyn Pardo, Bernadette Tad-y, Henson Dave Tan, Severiano Co, Gilbert Chua, Edwin Gocuan and Henry Gocuan of Cebu Blue Pearl who bagged the branch manager of the year award. Pru Life UK is one of the top-performing subsidiaries of Prudential Corp. of UK in Asia.

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Greenwoods Exec V 3.15M LA-204 FA-265 4BR 4TB Call GRACE / CUALO 412-3999 0917-4816596 374-3719 Direct Buyer Only

LA 230 3BR 2TB MAID / TB Nr SHAW BLVD CALL 634-1212

NEW 2Sty 3BR 2T&B CPORT LA-56 FA-90 Nr Ever Golesco S&R P2M 655-4960 • 655-7974

QUEZON CITY

3.7Hectares Antipolo Poultry Direct Buyers • 929-8376

450m² Violago I Visayas Ave. 5BR 4Car Garage • 929-8376

Californian Inspired! Kamias New 6BR/4TB 2CG #75 K-9 St 4.8M neg 3725066

L256 Rolling Hill New Mla. 2Sty 4BR 2Car • 929-8376

LA600m² Visayas Ave. QC Coml Lot w/Income 929-8376

NOVALICHES 390T 9304750

•Pag-asa Rd 13 bn 9263307•

RUSH SALE Timog w/House LA493m² @ P10M T-9282497

T.Sora 1Ride to UP P2.2M 3BR2TB LA100 FA60 9310685

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

MONTALBAN 360T 6495616

nr Sn Mateo 360T 9390299

SAN JUAN

BOY ADD HILLS NR WILSON 340SQM 30T NEGOTIABLE! 0917-8335125 / 726-4544

★Ghills 4BR Spol P39M; 1000sm 5BR P38M 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

BINAN LAG South City Homs LA150m² FA42m² 2BDRM 1T&B P750T Vic 8907647

STA. ROSA 6T/MO 11YRS 5202784

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

PARANAQUE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR 3 30 mins from Makati, Grab corner lots 0917-9114250 Luis

Rush!CanyonWoods Bingas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

LOT

MANILA

150m² (15mx10m) Alejo Aquino St. Malate, Mla Cel#0916-3800070 or 0917-4599515

500 OR 1,189SQM ADRIATICO ST., NR COR NAKPIL MALATE MLA. SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

Ayala 1500m² 80M 647-1291

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @ P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

L1000 Fairview QC V-Lot 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

L4000 Baler St. QC V-Lot 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

L932 Baesa QC VLot 4lnd 0919-4024987 • 929-8376

RIZAL

BROOKSIDE HILLS CAINTA 310SQM TEL. 723-8843

PROVINCIAL

1-3 HEC AGUINALDO H-WAY ANABU II BET MAKRO & ORCHARD IMUS CAVITE SUSAN 2414194 LOC 1 OFF HR

LOT USE FOR ANY PURPOSE
30,768 sqm Capas, Tarlac
50m away fr McHi-way
Tel: 0916-4139874

★METRO, BAGUIO★150m²up DP20Tup P4,020 ma 4198102

Sn Juan Batangas 3.2 HA Beach Prop P200/Sq.M. Good 4 Resort T8967265

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Ven • 0917-8169849

Only 9,000++/mo.
Own a 2BR Condo nr Mkti & Megamall Ready 4 OCCUPANCY! Inquire now at 641-1782 for more info.

PASIG

5 Yrs 2 Pay 0 Int + Big Discount 671-2049 / 9651

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY
810-7183 810-8019
815-2144 829-5081
961-7521 872-7603
776-4604 871-8318
893-4206
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CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

PASIG

CRISANTA TOWER NR ULTRA 2BR 2TB 1PRKNG 634-1212

Horizon 140m² 2br 4.6Mneg 4121825

LA 88 FA 280 3BR 4TB 2 CAR KAPITOLYO CALL 634-1212

Only 13,000++/mo.
Own a condo unit Along Ortigas Ave inside S&R comm'l complex W/hi-end amenities BIG DISCOUNTS OFFD! 656-1664/1882

Phoenix 2-3br 4.5-5M 4121825

QUEZON CITY

1.8M Nr ABS-CBN
10% D.P. payable in 6 mos Balance 10 or 15 years to pay
Call 926-4070 ; 924-1402

Affordable Owner Migranting New Twnhse Call 644-8410 ; 09178395034

CAMBRIDGE PLACE TOWNHOUSE CORTE BELLA PROJECT TEL. 723-8843

CONDO Panay Ave. 115m² 2BR 2T&B Garage Fully Furnished 374-2572, 0917-4032151

EASTWOOD 1-2BR SALE /RENT RFO T 633-7601/03

FL Area 112M² 3br 3tb New 1.650M 9325348 MAPAYAPA

QC TOWNHSE LOYOLA HGHTS 2 BR 2.2M NEG RUSH SALE MISSY 911-5745

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

FARM/FISHPEN

10Ha Fishpnd Dvlp redy2operate Occ Mindoro 641-7543

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

ALABANG

2Story 10T Mo Proj 4 QC Call 7723989 / 8425272

MAKATI

2BR2TB SCRND GRG 8443622

MANILA

1447 Zulueta Paco Manila 2BR 1T&B Strong Water 9500T

Apt 6771828/6682108

MANDALUYONG

845 Samat St., Mand. City • 533-7709 to 12

QUEZON CITY

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

SFDM 1&2br 10Tmo 3725066

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo, UP, Mnam, Katsika, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M. Mla.
3. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
4. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED BUY & TRANSFER NOW! SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
FOR BUSY INVESTORS/BUSINESS MEN WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9:00 p.m.
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 922-4469/921-4883 433-7668/433-8842

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

PASIG

2 Stry 4BR 15T nr Laco/SM Off /Res 6416683 / 09194790636

QUEZON CITY

Ldys Nr. UP Dillman 5243126

PROVINCIAL

Laguna BelAir Sale/Rent 049-5410459 • 0917-8128700

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

9T; 2BR/8131542/09194108939

Finally a Place To Come Home To:O.S.P. Call 09164303403

Mkt 2BR P10.5up Studio P8.5up FreePrkg H2O Tel/Secu 8905331

new studio/2BR/clinic/com'l P9T up • no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Korean nationality is welcome!!! LOOKING 4 KOREAN BROKER Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

Open to Brokers who Prime Lot for Twnhse Development Call 09164303403

MANILA

3BR 225 SQM CONDO LT 300 ROXAS BLVD BSD TRADERS HOTEL NICE VIEW SUNSET /MANILA BAY & YACHT CLUB TEL. 3021990 / 09178903202

MANDALUYONG

ShawTower 32m² 12K/mo.8127760

PASIG

AIC Ort 3BR 35K 723-2391

SAN JUAN

Greenhills Cortijos 3BR Semi-Furn P25K • 723-2391

★SJuan Lit Baguio Twnhse FA-300 3BR FF 50K 7232391

ROOM & BOARD

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

QC 912-4664 • 0919-2554488

BEDSPACE

• LADY BEDSPACERS • D Tuazon nr Welcome Rtd 741-6066 Look 4 Tessie

M/F & Rm 4 rent 19 Lallonlla St Brgy Damayang Lagi New Mnla beside Trinity H.S. nr St Luke's Hosp 70093-82 Cathy

Nr SM Sta Mesa 7163710

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

Car Sangla While-U-Wait
30 Mins. Cash / No Gimmick!
9241254 • 9264160 • 9259121

International Arts/Craft Co.
Urgently Required

MANAGER - Design Dept.

Responsibilities:
- Supervising operations of Dept.
- Set direction for new Development
- Work with factories on exclusive designs

Requirements:
- Degree in Arts or related field
- 8 years experience in creative design
- Have creative marketing skills
- Good interpersonal and organizational skills
- Work experience in North America a PLUS
- Fluent in Verbal & Written English
- Willing to travel extensively abroad

Remuneration:
- Attractive salary
- Accommodation & food provided
- Annual holiday
- Exposure to World-wide Business

Interested Candidates, please send comprehensive resumé & references:

Mr. David Chua, 82 Bonanza St., Rancho II,
Marikina City and e-mail to:
elainhui60@hotmail.com and
<davidkbchua@hotmail.com>

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

GUD BUS / OFFICE KAPITOLYO FA 125 SQM CALL 634-1212

JollibeePlz 80m² @300 neg 4121825

MAKATI OFFICE FOR RENT 200m² w/ 2 parking • 50T/mo. Tel. 6362801 Ms. Mely

MKTI ofc/clinic 8439418 Rose

Strata 200 250-500@200 4121825

Taipan 127m² @300 4121825

Tektite 100-8030m² @200 Up 4121825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

99 EXPED 1180M 9425537

FORD EXP SPORTRAC 4X4 15K Mileage 1.3M Only Agnes 8531202 / 0917-3987764

HONDA

RUSH! 2000 CIVIC VTEC well-maintained 810-5064

TOYOTA

'00 Corolla LE Earth Green P400T 921-6775 • 434-0566

'96FX 7K Orig. 09175302190

'79 TwnAce 55T 09175403845

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Prado Trooper Pajero Mu Safari Terrano Surf Hi-Town Ace Delica Suzuki A1 tx pd 9132224 / 4381161

BUSES/TRUCKS

CANTER ELF A1 4381480

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

ABC-CARS & VANS Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Alto, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta, Mazda, Sentra Open 24 hrs 536-8822/303-9789

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

H'ACE Van MM/Prov. 7800589

HI ACE VANS 8252988

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

JB CARS Cheap Rates # 526-0288 5362048/808-1632

L300 T7411356

BNew Van 8254056 8261045

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CS1ER 8957247/8969956

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

We Buy Used Cars 712-3851

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

SIGNET DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
SIGNET
KIA
LOW DOWN PAYMENT

KC2700 PANORAMIC D.P. P100,000
Also Available in Aluminum Van & Dropside

D.P. P179,000 SEDONA RS

D.P. P125,000 PREGIO
"Subject to Bank Approval"
Installment Plan: 24 months to 60 months
• KIA MAKATI
2241 PASONG TAMO ST., MAKATI CITY
817-8416 / 817-8417 / 817-8406

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

P35T-45T up KAWAI;YAMAHA O/Brands Term/Cash 9240834

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER TRAINS DOGS w/COMPETENCE BOARDING/HOME SERVICE PUPPYCARE T 0919-7414590

Rottweiler Pups 9310053

THE BIGGEST AND THE ONLY SCIENTIFIC DOG SCH. IN R.P. PHIL. DOG SCHOOL LICENSED BY THE GOV'T TRAINS DOGS W/K9 PSYCHOLOGY GUARDWORK / SECURITY OBEDIENCE CORRECT HABITS TEL. 7213736 • 0917-8483181

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22T Pool Sr New Cmplt 7767507

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8020566/8014494

RUSH! GOLF COMPLETE SET 4 LADIES P20T 0917-2429078

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284 09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

***** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION *****

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR
(PE SECTION)
Qualifications:
• Male / Less than 30 years old • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • A graduate of Electrical Engineering • Must have a feasible achievement in production improvement • Must have a thorough knowledge in product computer maintenance • Must have 2 years experience in solving notebook and computer engineering problem

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR
(TE SECTION)
Qualifications:
• Male / Less than 30 years old • Graduate of Business Administration / Information Management • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • Must be well veres with TE job function, Testing process, Test program, Preload process, Test network and Preload network environment • Familiar with notebook computer manufacturing, and construction management

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications:
• Male / Less than 32 years old • Mechanical Engineering Graduate • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • Must have 3 years experience in handling Notebook Manufacturing process • Must be well veres in solving mechanical issues and concern • Able to manage new notebook computer product development process.

Requirements:
• Updated resume with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Employment Certificate

Interested applicant/s may submit all their requirements at:

WISTRON
Wistron InfoComm (Phil.), Corp.
#4 Rizal Hi-way corner Aim High Avenue,
Subic Bay Industrial Park Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Telephone: (63) 47 252-7740 (10 Lines) • Facsimile: (63) 47 252-6223

International Company
looking for
TELEMARKETERS
who speaks German
Fax RESUMÉ
Attn: HELEN AQUINO
746-7029
746-7030

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED-TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY GOLD HIGHEST PRICE CALL: 8390004 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

SALE
CHICHARON PELLET
BELLY P100.00/kg
BACK P105.00/kg
WANTED
CHICHARON DEALERS/DISTRIBUTOR
Call:
Charon Enterprise, Inc.
Tel. No. 722-0005 to 06

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

INTERIOR DESIGNER (BSID) Dorothy's Home Furnishing 2nd Flr Virramall 721-3107 10-6pm Fresh Grad Welcome

•URGENT-ADMIN. ASST.• 21-25y.o.,BS Accntncy grad or related course,computer literate, good oral & written comm skills T-847-0398;0919-4299141

MALE/FEMALE

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/w/oexp Start asap 9134470 Mariel

20 DENTISTS FOR CEBU FREE Fare, Board & Lodging CALL (032)254-9603 / 0916-3531340

COMSCI/ANY REL. COURSE give NAME, ADD, LNDLINE MR. YAMOG 09196876266

FREE CARE GIVER SEMINAR 561-49-90 5638009

★URGENT OFC 18/45/ w/w/o Exp Direct 9134470 Rita★

Modern & progressive printing company is in need of INDUSTRIAL ENGR & ACCTG. CLERK call 372-6452 to 54 ask for Louie or Minnie

NURSE & MEDTECH WITH LICENSE TEL. 9835363

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 913-4470 YEYE

OFC STAFF 913-4470 JIO

•OFC STAFF9134470•BEA•

URGENT-LAUNDRY SHOP STAFF 20-25y.o.,at least coll.level, exp.in laundry optns an advantage, male pref.w/driving skills & prof. drivers license T-847-0398;0919-4299141

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

DENTISTREE
Dental Board Review Center
Enrollment Going On
For Aug 12 - Nov 22, 2002
Rm 202 Philippne College of Surgeon Bldg 992 Edsa Quezon City (SM City Annex)
Tel No. 926-4526 / 456-0590
Fax No. 927-1631 email: dentistree@i-manila.com.ph

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on June 22, 2002 at 9:00A.M. including all items pawned up to JANUARY 2002.
V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adultwear consign 3738821

Earn 15%/mo. Interest with PDC and Contract Txt/Call 09174292548 - 09195307405

•Travel N Earn From Home• earn-and-travel.com 8531008 (0917)8901851

Bazaar/Mall/Exhibit Spaces 633-9662 / 638-9608

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo Needs People To Train • Tel.# 525-0234 •

Supervisors P/F Time 8376068

Travel & Earn From Home 02-6870963 / 0917-5319792

Travel Now Ask Me How • 0917-8371152 •

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the heirs of the late VICENCIO T. VIVAS executed an extrajudicial settlement of Lot 2-P-2 under TCT No. 29584, Batangas, per Doc. No. 102, Page No. 21; Book No XIX; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Emiliano N. Belmi, of Calatagan, Batangas.
(PDI-June 15, 22 & 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF MARIKINA
Office of the City Treasurer

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provision of Section 260 of Local Government Code (RA 7160) the undersigned will sell at public auction on July 12, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the main entrance of the City Hall, Marikina City the real property herein below specified which is hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real property taxes, penalties and costs due thereon as of the date of sale.

PATALASTAS TUNGKOL SA PAGSUSUBASTA SA ARI-ARIANG DI NATITINAG NA MOROSO SA BUWIS

Alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng "Section 260 Local Government Tax Code (RA 7160) ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publico sa Hulyo 12, 2002 sa ganap na ika-10 ng umaga sa bungad ng City Hall, ng Marikina ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang mabayaran ang morosong buwis, multa at halaga ng pagsusubasta.

DECLARED OWNER and ADDRESS	TAX DEC. No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	KIND	LOT No.	BLK. No.	AREA	TCT No.	ASSESSED VALUE		TAX DUE	INTEREST	YEARS DELINQUENT	TOTAL TAX DUE	COST OF PUBLICATION	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
								LAND	IMP.						
1. EUSEBIO, MARILOU ETAL 126 15th Avenue, Cubao Quezon City	D-011-02757 D-011-02758	Provident Village Tanong	Com. Lot Com. Hse.	40	9	375	285661	168,750.00	1,071,360.00	16,875.88 215,129.12	5,821.88 75,530.88	1998-2001 1994-2001	122,696.88 1,290,660.00	2,786.70	25,483.58 290,660.00
2. MENDOZA, RUFO 123 Pasadena, Pasay City	D-012-09720	Loyola Grand Villas, Conc. 1	Res. Lot	14	9	650	26342	169,000.00		75,790.00	26,122.20	1988-2001	101,912.20	2,786.70	104,698.90
3. ROSMIL REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	D-001-00176	Loyola Grand Villas, Barangka	Res. Lot	3-A	3-A	1,051	206679	273,260.00		122,547.20	42,237.76	1988-2001	164,784.96	2,786.70	167,571.66

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 260 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this office as of April 30, 2002.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

Pinatutunayan ko na alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng Sekyong 260 ng Republic Act No. 7160, kilala sa tawag ng "Local Government Code of 1991" ang lahat ng nasasaad na pagkakautang sa buwis ay tama batay sa Talaan ng Tanggapan ito hanggang Abril 30, 2002.

PINATUTUNAYANG TAMA:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

(PDI – June 7 & 15, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. No. 527-4873, 527-4892 & 527-4880 to 82

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 02-007 (PB)

DATE OF BIDDING ----- JUNE 28, 2002

0206-003-TES	1 lot, S/P for PIV Gears, Manufactured by P.I.V: Antrieb Werner Reimers GmbH & Co.; consisting of 9 items
0206-004-TES	1 job. Supply of equipment, tools, supplies, labor, supervision and engineering, testing and commissioning for the modification/conversion from Belt-Drive to Direct Coupled Drive of two (2) units Vibrating Screen of BCFTPP Unit No. 2 Coal Handling System at Calaca, Batangas. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on June 21, 2002, 2:00 PM at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference.
0206-005	1 job, Supply of labor, materials, equipment, tools, consumables and other necessary supplies for the repair of one unit Screw Type Coal Unloader (Siwetell) located at NPC-BCFTPP, Calaca, Batangas, Manufactured by BMH Marine.
0206-006-TES	2 assy., Jacking Oil Pump, Type XA2/2ASRITXA2/2ASRI/2ASRI & XA2/2ASRITXA2/2ASRI, Sizes Three & Twin body pump, SN 98124625/226, /227, /228 & 10406/146, 10407/147, Manufactured by Oil Gear Tower.
0206-007	4 rolls, Wire Ropes, steel of various sizes construction henp core, right hand regular lay (Z-Lay) ungalvanized, improved flow steel grade 180 kgf/mm2
0206-008	1 job, Supply of labor, material, installation, tools, equipment and technical supervision for the application of polyurethane water proofing system for Service Building Roof Deck at BCFTPP
0206-009	2070 kgs., Various Welding Electrodes & Welding Rod.
0206-010	40 pcs., Fluorescent Lamp Fixtures, dust-proof and jet-proof, Lamp 1 x TL D 36 W, 220 V, 60 Hz, complete with ballast, starter and fluorescent tubes, Model TCW 075, Philips Brand or equivalent.

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **June 17, 2002** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P 25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check. Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI--June 15, 2002)

USAID

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, computer equipment, one (1) unit 1992 S-10 Chevrolet pick-up, automatic transmission and one (1) unit 1994 Jeep Cherokee, 4x2, automatic transmission on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on **June 17-19, 2002** from **8:00 a.m.** to **11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Boulevard, (formerly Tramo Street), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on **June 20, 2002** at **8:00 a.m.** to **11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Romeo S. Arquisola and Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI–June 15 & 16, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB MARKET
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DELIGHT DAD ON DADDY'S DAY

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EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR DAD – GREET HIM IN THE FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION OF THE INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS ON JUNE 16. FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE OF P50 PER LINE OR P150 PER COLUMN CENTIMETER, YOUR DAD ALSO GETS A CHANCE TO WIN GIFT CERTIFICATES IN OUR HIP HOP POP RAFFLE.

HIP HOP POP
FATHER'S DAY PROMO

SO THIS FATHER'S DAY, LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU'RE SIMPLY GRATEFUL AND PROUD JUST TO CALL HIM YOUR FATHER. FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT OR CALL ANY OF OUR BRANCHES.

RATES ARE VAT EXCLUSIVE AND APPLY ONLY ON THE JUNE 16 ISSUE.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. **For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.**
2. **Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.**
3. **Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.**
4. **The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.**
5. **An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.**
6. **GCs are not convertible to cash.**
7. **Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.**
8. **Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.**
9. **GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.**
10. **Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.**
11. **Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.**

Sample Ads

Happy Father's Day Daddy!
Love,
Gabby,
Mike,
Isa,
Johnny,
Manila

To my Daddy, Nicki:
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDA!
From your honey pie,
AUDREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
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Happy Father's Day Papa! Thank you for everything. We love you. *Moreen & Matt*

size: 3 lines
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MESSAGEBoard
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.1236 SERIES OF 2002.

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OBITUARIES

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... because they deserve only the best.
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EVELYN DUNCOMBE ELIZALDE

†

Peacefully joined her Creator
and her husband, the late
Capt. Augusto C. Elizalde
on June 12, 2002
at the age of 80.

Her loving children: **Monique & Ian Burbury, Bong & Helen Marinno, Butch & Marines Carvajal, Nanette Jones**; grandchildren **Colin, Philip, Khristin, Anne Lynne, Mikel, Josef, Nicole & Bryce**; great grandchild **Denise**; sisters-in-law **Lilia Gimenez, Celia Pastor, Belen and Juanita Elizalde**; and dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Cremation will follow after the 9:00 o'clock Mass on Monday, June 17, 2002.

In Loving Memory
of the 17th Death Anniversary of

FELICISIMO MANUMBALE GARING, Sr.

former Mayor, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

Masses will be offered on Sunday, June 16, 2002
at the following churches:

San Nicolas De Tolentino Parish Church *Naujan, Oriental Mindoro*	6:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuario De San Jose *Greenhills, San Juan*	7:15 a.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help *13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City*	7:30 a.m.
Christ the King Mission Seminary *E. Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
San Nicolas De Tolentino Parish Church *Project 8, Quezon City*	7:15 a.m.

His loving son **Atty. Silverio "Biyong" R. Garing**, brothers, sisters and the rest of the family, requests those whose lives he touched and the readers, to pray for his eternal happiness.

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSE LOPEZ GOMEZ

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 13, 2002
at the age of 39.

His loving wife **CHONA**; children **JOSHUA, JEROME,** and **JASMINE**; sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Filipinas, Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City.

Cremation will be on June 18, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Crematorium.

(For further details, please contact 873-0024.)

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Rosita Tabia Anonuevo

of Lumban and Sta. Cruz, Laguna

who passed away on June 5, 2002

wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways were just there for us when we needed it most.

Our Dearly Beloved

DRA. JANE HERMO DELA PAZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 10, 2002
at the age of 42.

Her husband **Dr. Gil dela Paz**; sons **Gian Niccolo** and **Gian Carlo**; her mother **Dra. Rosalina Hermo**; father **Dr. Marciano Hermo** (†); in-laws **Perfecto** and **Rosalinda dela Paz Jr.**; sisters and their spouses, nephew and nieces, relatives and friends ask for prayers and are thankful for the love she exemplified and her strength that will continually bring us closer to each other.

Her remains lie in state at Gubat, Sorsogon. She will be laid to rest at the Gubat Catholic Cemetery on June 22, 2002.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

We Lovingly Remember
the First Death Anniversary of

Macairog "Irog" A. de Guia

Pandacan, Manila

Who joined his Creator on June 15, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered today, Saturday, June 15, 2001 at the following:

Sto. Niño Parish Church, Pandacan	7:00 AM
Sto. Niño Chapel, Beata, Pandacan	7:30 PM
Paco Catholic Church, Paco	7:30 AM
St. Joseph Church, New Jersey, U.S.A.	7:00 AM
St. Olav Church, Oslo, Norway	7:00 AM

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
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Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel. 433-7132
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438 Cementina St., Pasay City. Tels. 831-1204
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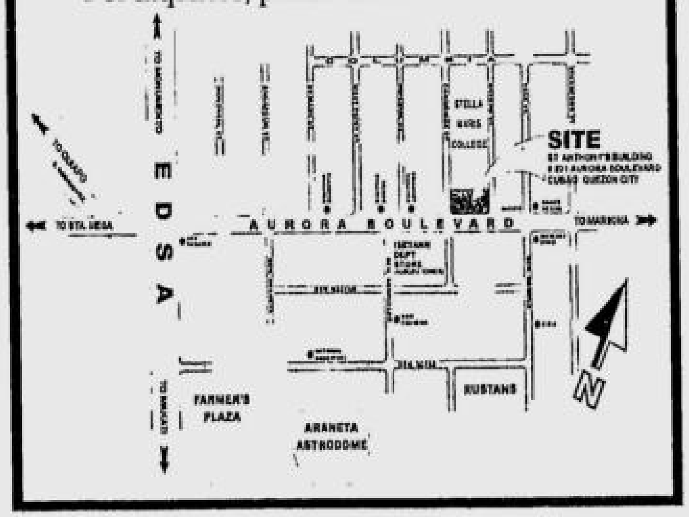


Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites interested parties to a public bidding for the **VARIOUS COMPUTER PARTS/MODULES** on **July 12, 2002** at exactly 2:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidders may secure the list of Pre-qualification documents and other bidding requirements at the PBAC Secretariat, ITG-MIS division, 2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City and for inquiries you may call thru Telephone No. **927-2731** or Fax No. **927-2698**.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification documents shall be held on **July 2, 2002** at 2:00 p.m.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and
Chairman, Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI - June 14, 15 & 16, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila
CITY GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE

June 14, 2002

INVITATION TO BID

The City General Services Office of Manila invites all accredited Suppliers of the City and other interested parties and if not pre-qualified, to apply for pre-qualification and if pre-qualified, to bid and submit proposals for the supply and delivery of the one (1) year medical, laboratory and dental supplies requirements of its hospitals, Gat. Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, Ospital Ng Maynila Medical Center, Ospital Ng Tondo and Sampaloc, and the Manila Health Department.

Prequalifications documents shall be examined starting **June 18, 2002** until **June 25, 2002** and bid proposals issued to prequalified bidders at the City General Services Office located at the Second (2nd) Floor, Barangay Bureau Building, A. Villegas (formerly Arroceros) Street, Manila.

A Pre-Bid Conference for Qualified bidders is scheduled on **June 28, 2002**, 9:30 a.m. at the aforecited office.

Sealed bids shall be submitted on or before **July 3, 2002** at 9:00 a.m., when they will be formally opened in the presence of the Bidding Committee and the Contending Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JAIME P. VALENCIA, JR.**
Officer-in-Charge
City General Services Office

(PDI - June 15, 2002)

Special athletes gear up for World Olympics

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE COUNTRY'S special children and adults are busy preparing for the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland through their own Special Olympics Philippines to be held in December 2002.

They will compete in basketball, soccer, swimming, table tennis and bowling.

In preparation for the December games, more than 800 athletes from Metro Manila and special children and adults are participating in the Special Olympics Opening Eyes program on July 20, which coincides with the National Disability Prevention Week.

The Optometric Association of the Philippines (OAP) will be giving free eye examination and eyeglasses to all the athletes.

OAP's Dr. Carmen Abesamis Dichoso said the optometrists are so far the only medical personnel in the country who have been trained abroad by the Special Olympics committee to deal with special athletes. Special training is needed to treat people with mental retardation.

SPECIAL Olympics Opening Eyes-Philippines

DR. Rosmel Chavez conducts the Slit Lamp Biomicroscopy eaximation to detect external and internal ocular pathology.

"The training is very different. Most of their (communication) is nonverbal, and we handle special instruments, which is why training is needed. Although measurement of the eye grade depends on the machine, we also get subjective responses from them, such as the color vision test. One also has to consider the mental age of the athletes," Dichoso said.

The mental ages of Filipino special athletes are equivalent to those of 4- to 8-year-olds.

Good health required

Special athletes cannot participate in the World Special Olympics unless they are in good health. With the help of doctors from six disciplines—optometry, audiology, dentistry, physiotherapy, health promotion (such as physical therapy) and podiatry—more than 7,000 athletes from 160 countries will undergo health screening and counseling.

The Special Olympics Health Promotion program endorses health for people with mental retardation, because it is the latter that often suffer health problems such as heart disease, obesity and diabetes. These conditions tend to develop early.

And people with mental retardation usually have less access to health care.

Two years ago, the Special Olympics commissioned researchers at Yale University to review the health status of people with mental retardation. The study confirmed that people with mental retardation generally had more health problems that led to premature aging and shorter life expectancies.

Researchers found evidence that exercise and diet programs could work to improve performance and lower the incidence of disease among this population. Researchers also stressed that mental retardation did not necessarily mean poor health.

Schizophrenia not for life; treatment now available

IT strikes in early adulthood when some difficulty in distinguishing reality from fantasy may be excused for an overactive imagination.

Quite frequently paranoia, or suspiciousness of intentions of others, accompanies these feelings. Consequently, confusion comes in, pushing the person to withdraw and stay away from people. As a result, there is difficulty establishing interpersonal relationships, pushing the person even more to the edge of isolation and withdrawal.

Thereafter, being totally withdrawn, he starts building a world of his own—of fantasy and unrealistic imagination. Frustration comes over the inability to keep a relationship going, be that only as having a friend interested in hearing about the strange feelings. There is a name for this condition: *schizophrenia*.

Neuropsychiatric disorder

Although approximately one percent or 50 million of the world population suffer from this neuropsychiatric disorder, it is considered a "social disease." The stigma attached to it is even more disheartening. People suffering from this mental disorder have difficulty in processing information due to chemical imbalance in the brain. Since the messages within the brain are not properly processed, it makes the person confused, and makes him unable to maintain congruency of his thoughts, feelings and behavior.

And since he does things out-of-the-ordinary—like talking about sounds only he can hear or some bizarreness of his behavior—the community simply labels the sufferer as "crazy."

Fifty years, ago, the term and the symptoms would have condemned a person to a debilitating illness. Although schizophrenia is still not a curable disease, today there are established treatments to reintegrate persons with this malady into mainstream society.

A noted psychiatrist, Dr. Bernardo L. Conde, has seen an encouraging trend toward the recovery of such patients. "Many patients recover with treatment that combines psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy," he explained.

Dr. Conde, a practising psychiatrist, is a professor at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Department of Neurology and Psychiatry. In his 20 years of experience in providing treatment for patients with schizophrenia, Dr. Conde had observed the effects of a variety of drugs developed to treat this condition. Almost all drugs have proven efficacy, their differences are in the side-effects profile, or treatment-emergent adverse events.

He identified a significant factor in the whole treatment package as a breakthrough anti-psychotic drug preparation called Olanzapine. Developed by Eli-Lilly, Olanzapine had been established to be an effective first-line treatment for both the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia.

Reintegration into society

The drug's success is especially noted in its low incidence of debilitating movement disorder or extrapyramidal side effects associated with first-generation anti- psychotics. Thus, those on Olanzapine do not display such effects as stiffening of the neck, tremors, drooling, or unusual limb movements. It is advisable however for patients to do regular exercises.

Dr. Conde said it is not always true that a patient should be on medication for life. "Some of my patients have actually been off the drug for years. But of course, these cases are closely monitored and involved major changes in the patient's environment—internal and external. Cooperation of the patient and the support of family are the foundation of treatment," Dr. Conde emphasized. His experience has seen the reintegration into society of patients with mild to severe grades of this mental illness.

"It is not always easy for a patient to comply with the medication because treatment really takes a long time. Regular follow-up evaluation and treatment are essential. Rating scales to measure outcomes of treatment are available. If his condition improves, his medication will be adjusted. After a few months, he will be rated again to see if he is responding to treatment and the medication will be tapered off," Dr. Conde explained.

Improving overall condition

Olanzapine is approved by drug regulatory authorities in more than 70 countries. Studies involving more than 4,000 patients have shown that it helps patients manage their symptoms to improve overall condition.

Olanzapine and psychotherapy have claimed many success stories among mentally ill patients. Many have pursued their studies while others are now pursuing productive endeavors. Dr. Conde said that a few of his patients have moved on with their lives, even living abroad. "But they keep in touch with me regularly and they have a strong family support."

ON-AIR MEDICAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM
University of Santo Tomas Hospital chief operating officer Pilar P. Almira, right, announces the launch of UST Hospital's weekly on-air medical consultation program "Misyon...Konsultasyon" as the program's hosts Andy Velarde, standing, and Noel Nieva listen on. Aired nationwide every Tuesday at 10-11 p.m. on dzRH, "Misyon..." was developed to make information about common diseases and disorders, treatment and prevention of diseases available to the public. It is part of dzRH's long – running public service program "Operation Tulong."

Bio food, an alternative to processed food

By Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, DSc.
Contributor

A NEW breed of foods aptly called bio- prophylactics foods, or functional foods, are now in the offing. Such foods are free from genetically modified organisms, and are totally organic and health friendly.

Food preservatives, food-refining processes, chemically laced foods, and genetically altered food components have wrought havoc to the human immune system and created degenerative diseases. Increased uses of refined products like rice and sugar, have resulted to an increase in adult diseases like hyperlipidemia, diabetes, colon cancer and ischemic heart diseases.

Recent studies have revealed that fibers maintain homeostasis and play a therapeutic role.

Dietary fibers reduce cholesterol levels by inhibiting the reabsorption of cholesterol in the intestinal tract and decrease bad cholesterol levels by promoting bile excretion. They reduce fluctuations of blood sugar levels during the day, making blood sugar easier to control. They inhibit the toxic effects of hazardous substances in foods.

MGN-3 research

Dr. Mamdooh Ghoneum has worked as an immunologist for more than 20 years. One of his more current studies was on biological response modifiers.

Dr. Ghoneum tested various dosages using in vivo studies on laboratory mice.

To ensure that the animal's immune system was depressed, he used his "own unique model for immune suppression: age." To test the effect of MGN-3 on the immune system, he used old mice with ailing immune system function.

His research sought to measure the action of MGN-3 when it is added to the mixture of white blood cells and cancer cells. He needed to count the number of dead cancer cells but it would have been impossible to do this manually. So researchers added radioactive material- chromium-51. Since dead cells will release radioactive materials through their nonfunctional membrane, the number of dead cancer cells will create a certain amount of radioactivity. This amount is measured with a gamma count which uses the amount of radiation to calculate how many cancer cells have been killed.

"The more the radioactivity, the more cancer cells will be 'popped,' or killed," said Dr. Ghoneum.

NK cells, on their own, will kill a certain number of cancer cells.

"When we say that the NK activity is 35 percent," said Dr. Ghoneum, "what we mean is that after four hours the NK cells have killed 35 out of 100 cancer cells."

In other words, MGN-3 does not increase the number of NK cells but merely increases their potency. It's a "true" biological response modifier, which is defined as a nontoxic substance that has measurable effects on biological responses such as those of the immune system.

Bio bran

Bio bran (MGN-3) is a novel type of dietary fiber that is produced by using rice bran and enzymes of mushroom. It is the product of the latest research of food and nutritional chemistry and is expected to play a major role in the development of a new field of food science.

The hemicellulose of the rice bran is an excellent dietary fiber and is activated by partial hydrolysis to acquire characters that it does not have in its intact form.

Bio bran contains denatured hemicellulose that is obtained by reacting rice bran hemillulose, a substance with enzymes (multiple carbohydrate hydrolyzing enzymes) derived from mushrooms.

The main chemical structure of Bio bran (MGN-3) is an arabinoxylane with a xylose in its main chain and arabinose polymer in its side chain. It is less hygroscopic, easily dissolved in water and alcohol, and has excellent formability. It comes in powder form with a special flavor and is used as functional food and additive for health-oriented food.

Its minimum recommended daily dose for adults is 600 mg. An intake of one to three daily is recommended to maintain active health.

(A free symposium on bio-prophylactic foods will be held today from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Hidalgo function room of the Manila Galleria Suites.)

Wastewater issues up at seminar on Wednesday

THE WATER Environment Association of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (Creba), will sponsor a seminar on the upcoming Clean Water Act and updates on the Environmental Impact Assessment System and the Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment (Egga) System.

The seminar will be held on June 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, United Nations Avenue, Manila, with the support of the Water Environment Federation-USA through the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership.

Environmental laws

The seminar will update building and housing developers, local government officials, specifically the chairpersons of the sanggunian housing committees, municipal and city planning development officers, pollution control officers and leading engineers on the environmental laws and regulations.

A case study will also be presented for low-cost housing projects with a centralized sewerage system, with discussions on treatment processes for domestic and municipal wastewater.

Dr. Alma Bella P. Madrazo, WEAP president, said the group is committed to preserve a clean water environment, continue to provide the concerned sectors and the public with the latest developments in environmental laws and wastewater treatment technology through an exchange of information, experiences and "best practices" among experts from its members, foreign partners and local professional groups.

Speakers

Seminar speakers are Dr. Mario A. Aurelio, chief, Urban Geology Section of the Bureau of Mines and Geo Science, DENR, "Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment for Environment al Certificates if Compliance Applications"; and engineer Renato Cruz, head, water division, Environmental Management Bureau, "Update on the Clean Water Act." Other speakers are Rey Alcances, chief, EIA division, EMB, "The Philippine EIS System (Presidential Decree 1586)"; Michael P. Caparros, process engineer, EnviroAsia, "Anerobic Stabilization Process for Medium to High Strength Wastewater"; and Porthos Alma Jose, president, Pipeline Engineering, "Case Study: Low-Cost Housing with Centralized Sewerage System."

Dolores Nepomuceno, assistant general manager, Laguna Lake Development Authority, will deliver the opening remarks, while Creba national president Florentino Dulalia Jr. will close the seminar. Moderators are Dr. Pag-Asa D. Gaspillo of De La Salle University and Joselito Endaya, project manager, TCGI Engineers. For seminar details, call the WEAP at 371-9790 or 410-1119 and Creba at 373-2270.

Very low dose blood pressure drug launched

THE RESEARCH for an ideal blood-pressure (BP) lowering drug which is effective but with minimal side-effects is still on.

A unique drug called Preterax, based on the novel very-low-dose combination (VLCD) concept, was formally launched at the recent annual convention of the Philippine Heart Association at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The launch symposium, featured two internationally renowned speakers—Professors Trefor Morgan from the University of Melbourne, and Romeo Divinagracia from the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center.

Morgan discussed the VLCD concept, which seeks to optimize BP control by combining very low doses of two complementary blood pressure drugs (Perindopril and Indapamide, the components of Preterax). The new preparation has been shown to result in a marked reduction in high BP with a minimum of side effects.

Morgan presented studies conducted abroad documenting the superior efficacy and safety of Preterax compared to other BP-lowering drugs and concluded that VLCD drugs were an attractive option as first-line treatment for high BP. The doctor and the patient are also spared from the cumbersome shifting and titration with various single-component drugs. This also improves the patient's compliance since they only have to take one drug instead of several drugs.

Divinagracia presented the initial results of the PULSE study (Preterax Usage as very-Low-dose first-line Strategy in Essential hypertension) conducted in Filipino patients with BP ranging from 140/90 to 180/110. After 12 weeks of once-daily treatment with Preterax, blood pressure readings were lowered by at least 20/10 in up to 95 percent of cases, and were actually restored back to normal in up to 89 percent of cases.

Preterax, the first-ever VLCD drug developed for high BP, is the product of extensive research and development of Les Laboratoires Servier France, represented in the country by Servier Philippines.

Cooking and the human evolution

By Massie K. SANTOS
Contributor

A SIMPLE reading of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution would say that over time, apes became intelligent, lost most of their body hair, learned to walk erect and became man. This is, of course, why many people refuse to believe it, preferring instead the idea that God directly created man.

But one of the more interesting questions Darwin's theory raises is what led to the evolution in the first place? It was not likely that an ape just decided one day that he wanted to be taller and then simply stood erect.

According to Dr. Richard W. Wrangham, an anthropology professor at Harvard, man's evolution can be attributed, at least in part, to his need for cooked food.

Wrangham is primarily known for his work with chimpanzees and the study of male aggression. His work on the relationship between cooked food and man first came out in the December 1999 issue of Current Anthropology. The paper was co-authored by other scientists from Harvard and the University of Minnesota.

Wrangham's theory has been refined in the past three years, and he has written an entire chapter in the book "Tree of Origin: What Primate Behavior Can Tell Us About Human Social Evolution." Published in April and edited by F.B.M. de Waal, the book has nine essays from leading primatologists connecting some aspect of human evolution with their own particular field of research, such as the use of tools, communication and hunting skills.

Food and the community

Although differences exist between people, there is no gathering in any society that does not involve food—be it the collection, preparation, or eating of it. Whether it's a baptism, graduation, wedding or funeral, all family reunions include food, plenty of food. Some people even remember events based solely on the food that was served, or the caterer that was hired.

In Sagada, a guest's arrival is celebrated by killing a chicken and examining its gizzard. If the gizzard is in the right place, it means the guest brings good luck. The hapless chicken then gets turned into dinner.

Leaders of nations are honored at state dinners, and prisoners on Death Row get the meal of their choice the night before they are executed.

The question is, did this behavior alone separate man from the other animals?

Wrangham believes that evolutionary changes—like smaller teeth and larger brain capacity and body size (from australopithecine to Homo erectus, which led to Homo sapiens)—can all be associated with the first grill and frying pan.

This means that cooking is a two-million-year-old art form, and not something that's been around merely a few hundred thousand years.

Does anyone wonder how the Egyptians or the Chinese, for example, learn about baking or eating rice without any alien technology involved?

Wrangham argues that "there's no record anywhere of any people who have lived without cooking," and that of the nearly 50 roots considered as food by man's early ancestors in Africa, 21 aren't edible unless they are cooked.

No proof

The problem with Wrangham's argument is that there isn't any proof—no fireplaces or large pits full of charcoal—which would indicate that people had once grilled or sautéed or stir-fried anything.

But perhaps fire pits aren't supposed to be detectable after a million years or so.

Still, it's a shame that the man who discovered that food left by the fire tasted better than food eaten raw will forever remain unknown. After all, his discovery led to tasty food that was safer to eat (no bacteria or toxins) and easier on the jaw.

With softer food, human teeth shrank. And healthier meals meant that succeeding generations were taller and stronger than their forebears, with larger brains that now had the ability to focus on hunting, yet still able to think about what spices best brought out the flavor of the mammoth. Or rather, to figure out where to get the spices the females in the group needed to make the meat taste better (since women were the ones left in charge of the household, after all).

Wrangham's theory is fascinating, and will be even more compelling when sufficient proof is found.

One question his theory doesn't answer though is if females were the first chefs, how come there are now so many male professional chefs?

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

The mother of Philippine entomology

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

RICH in flora and fauna, our country—with its strategic location near the equator and the site of regular monsoons—has mixed blessings. It is also replete with insects of all sizes, colors, and pesky effects.

Because of their ubiquity and their relatively small size (compared to whales, eagles and even tarsiers), insects are hardly the focus of much attention. However, they play a significant role in maintaining the ecosystem, sometimes becoming parasites (to humans and other animals). Examples are those in the Philippine Hymenoptera: ants, bees and Dr. Baltazar's specialty—wasps.

Much of what is currently known about local entomology can be credited to National Scientist Dr. Claire Rilloraza Baltazar. Throughout her more than 50-year career, Dr. Baltazar discovered four new genera, one subgenus, 53 species and 11 subspecies of wasps.

Wasps as pest control

Wasps are not totally harmful. In her landmark studies, Dr. Baltazar found that certain wasps parasitize wood borers (which are difficult to control by spraying). Thus, wasps can be used to control wood pests.

In fact, in the 1960s Dr. Baltazar and her team spearheaded the control of the Florida red scale infesting coconuts in Cebu City.

She reported, "No biological control agent was imported, but instead indigenous tiny wasps of the genus *Aphytis* and other predators feeding on the scales were utilized. The personnel merely collected parasitized scales and the wasps that emerged were released in heavily infested areas. After five years of continuous releases, the pest was under control. More important, the government saved much money by not importing parasites. Mass rearing of the parasites would have required capital investment in rearing facilities, not to mention foreign travel to survey natural enemies abroad."

In 1986 Dr. Baltazar used a similar strategy to control ipil-ipil plant pests. Using local natural enemies and refraining from chemical sprays, the team was able to control the psyllid, which by 1993 was no longer a pest in the Philippines. This was achieved without expensive and environmentally damaging pesticides.

Identifying genera

Dr. Baltazar also established keys to identify 125 genera of *Braconidae* (62 of which were new records for our country) and 120 genera and four subgenera of *Ichneumonidae*.

Why is this significant?

In the past, parasitic wasps caught or reared from various host insects were always sent to the US National or British Museums for identification. Sometimes months or even years would pass before they could be identified. With the keys to genera devised, entomologists could do their own examination.

Dr. Baltazar is also a prolific author. Her catalogue of Philippine wasps is the definitive reference work in this area, and includes more than 2,000 species known here over a span of more than two centuries.

She also studied other Philippine insects, such as antlions, lacewings, twisted-wings, fleas, caddisflies, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies, skippers, and moths.

Her biology textbook is being used nationwide in all state universities teaching general entomology and insect taxonomy at the college level. She also wrote more than 25 scientific papers and 15 popular articles and book reviews.

Dr. Baltazar was born on Nov. 1, 1927 in San Fernando, La Union. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) in 1947. She was a Fulbright scholar, received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950 and a doctorate from the same university and the North Carolina State College seven years later. She also did postdoctoral research in the US National Museum, the Smithsonian, six European institutions, and Kyushu University in Japan, as a Guggenheim Fellow.

She worked for the Bureau of Plant Industry from 1953 to 1968, the National Institute of Science and Technology from 1968 to 1975, and back to her college alma mater, from 1976 onward.

Now retired, she has been professor emeritus in UPLB since 1992.

In 1998, she was recognized as the first Filipina entomologist during a centennial salute to the 100 First Filipino Women sponsored by the Philippine American Foundation (Washington, D.C.).

Awards

She won many other awards such as Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology in 1981, the National Research Council Achievement Award for the Biological Sciences in 1980, and the Jose Rizal Pro Patria Award in Entomology in 1980. Among her other awards are the Golden Jubilee Award for Academic Excellence from the UP Rural High School in 1979, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UPCA Alumni Association in 1982, the UPLB Diamond Jubilee Recognition Award as Outstanding Researcher in 1984. Also included are the Hall of Fame from the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1972 and the Eminent Educators Award from the Pi Lambda Theta Philippines field chapter in 1989.

She was recognized as National Scientist in 2000.

She is also a member of several organizations, such as the International Organization of Biological Control in Southeast Asia, Sigma Xi Honorary Society (Wisconsin chapter), Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, National Research Council of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Entomologists, and Crop Science Society of the Philippines.

Dr. Baltazar's influence will remain as long as her much-studied (and much-loved) insects roam freely in our country.

It is but fitting that her most lasting legacy might just be the arthropod taxa that bear her name: *Ochterus baltazarae* (Order Hemiptera), *Filipinothrips baltazarae* (Order Thysanoptera), *Simulium baltazarae* and *Soita baltazarae* (Order Diptera), *Athyma alcamene baltazarae* (Order Lepidoptera), and Genus *Baltazaria* (Order Hymenoptera).

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo .com.)

The case of the rite of passage to manhood

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

PAOLO, a handsome Chinese adolescent, who happens to be the son of a famous- surgeon, went to his father one weekend morning and asked him if he could be circumcised. "I'm the only one not yet circumcised in our group and my friends keep teasing me, Dad."

The father answered: "I can easily do it for you, son; but I won't because I would like to spare you the unnecessary pain and inconvenience of the procedure. I want you to remain original and unaltered!"

Reasons for its practice

Until recently, no one including doctors—never bothered to take a close look at this issue. We always thought it was a long-answered question and that it was really medically necessary to have all males circumcised. But is it?

Circumcision in male usually consists of removing part of the prepuce or foreskin of the penis. Its practice has various origins, both religious and nonreligious, medical and nonmedical. The reasons for the practice of circumcision in males have evolved from Biblical practice. There is still the religious basis, especially for the Jews and Muslims (but this is not absolute anymore because there are now Jews and Muslims who object to male circumcision).

There is still the medical basis, particularly in the belief that circumcision can prevent urinary tract infection, penile and cervical cancer, and sexually transmitted diseases. The sexual arguments for circumcision is based on the belief that circumcision offers more sexual enjoyment to both male and female partners.

However, the predominant driving forces for circumcision in males are tradition and peer pressure. Male newborns are circumcised because of the parent's belief of the traditional practice. Male adolescents and even adults are also circumcised because of the traditional need ("rite of passage to manhood") and peer pressure (afraid to be teased as *supot*).

An objective, scientific and dispassionate look is therefore necessary to answer the question: Is circumcision in males really necessary?

Not necessary

On the basis of medical reasons, Dr. Rey Joson, head of the Department of Surgery at the Ospital ng Maynila, emphasizes that routine circumcision in males is **not** necessary. The American Academy of Pediatrics has done extensive critical analysis of all published papers on the topic and has come out with a stand in 1999 that routine circumcision in males is not necessary.

On the issues of urinary tract infection, penile and cervical cancers, Dr. Joson says that circumcision may have a potential benefit in terms of prevention but its actual value is minimal because of the low occurrence of these dreaded consequences. In other words, the risk is extremely low if circumcision is not done and thus, routine circumcision is not warranted.

On the issue of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention should focus on the behavioral factors—that is, avoiding promiscuity and careless sex—rather than relying on circumcision.

On the question of hygiene, promotion can be done with meticulous mechanical cleansing without having to resort to the invasive and painful procedure of circumcision.

Dr. Joson explains that the most common and most clear-cut medical indication for circumcision is now limited to patients with urinary tract infection secondary to phimosis (extremely small opening of the prepuce or foreskin of the penis). Paraphimosis (tightness of the foreskin that tends to strangle the penis) can be another medical indication if it occurs. Other than these situations, medical wise, circumcision in males is not necessary.

Against circumcision

In the Philippines, the Christian religions do not require routine circumcision anymore. For the Muslims and Jews, it may still be advocated but it is no longer an absolute requirement. There are even websites put up by Jewish and Muslim authors crusading against circumcision.

The debatable issue on sexual enjoyment may be a myth after all. Although there are no conclusive findings yet, Dr. Joson cites a most recent scientific article on the issue showing that more sexual enjoyment is felt by the female partners with noncircumcised than with circumcised men. The enjoyment is scientifically validated in terms of more copious vaginal secretion, less vaginal discomfort, and more frequent vaginal orgasm—multiple at that.

Driving forces

In countries like the Philippines, the predominant driving forces for circumcision in male at present are tradition and peer pressure. Though the traditional factor may be religious in origin, in the Philippines (at least for the Christians), it is usually nonreligious in nature and now more related with social customs and practices. Furthermore, the traditional factor is usually vague in the sense that the parents and the male children are not able to pinpoint the exact reason for wanting a circumcision to be done. Peer pressure in the Philippines is strong and consists of the male children afraid to be teased of being *supot*. Traditional practices and peer pressure are really hard to go against.

If we are not obliged by religious reasons and if we are now convinced that circumcision is not needed for medical reasons, the question is—how do we go against the tide of tradition and peer pressure to reverse the present practice of routine circumcision. That is the challenge being presented to those who think that the male Filipino children should be saved from the physical pain of unnecessary circumcision.

Position paper

Dr. Joson is rallying his medical colleagues to make a stand and help enlighten the public on the real score about circumcision. In his position paper on the issue, he says:

"As a surgeon, during the past 20 years, I have convinced quite a number of adolescent males who came to my clinic not to have circumcision anymore. Those who are convinced are happy and thankful to me. Those who are not convinced seek other surgeons to do the circumcision for them.

"I tell them that it is not needed and it is painful. I emphasize to them not to be carried away by the teasing of *supot* and not to be overpowered by peer pressure. I even teach them how to counter the teasing of *supot* by saying uncircumcised men are intact, unaltered and preferred by women in terms of sexual enjoyment and comfort.

"Thus, the challenge really consists of two aspects: First is how to change the belief of parents who will have their male children undergo routine circumcision because of the tradition. Second is how to reduce, if not abolish the peer pressure that will make the male adolescents and adults undergo routine circumcision."

Education and advocacy

How can we meet the challenge? Dr. Joson believes that basically, it can be achieved by public health education and advocacy.

Dr. Joson proposes public health education measures that will consist essentially of sending the message to the public through all forms of media that: *"Tuli—Di Kailangan! Masakit!"* Advocacy will consist essentially of actively campaigning against routine male circumcision by first explaining the issues and then convincing the public, especially the parents and male children that *Tuli—Di Kailangan! Masakit!* Hopefully, with the advocacy, the belief and behavior will change and Dr. Joson is confident that the peer pressure will also dissipate.

The strongest strategy in advocacy is for the physicians to speak out against routine circumcision. The public considers the physicians as the professionals to turn to when it comes to issues on circumcision. The public still has high respect for physicians in the Philippines.

The Department of Surgery and the Department of Family and Community Medicine of the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center headed by Dr. Joson have come out with a stand against routine circumcision. The group hopes that the Department of Health, Philippine Medical Association, Philippine Pediatric Society, Philippine College of Surgeons and other medical societies will also come out with a stand on the issue.

There is a very pertinent quote from a book, which gives us an insight on most doctors' ambivalence on the issue and what its impact on the public is. The author wrote: "One doctor said that he talked to every parent and male child who came to him for this purpose (circumcision), explaining the consequences and saying that it was unnecessary, but found they insisted upon having it done, so he complies. His justification was that he did it in a hygienic way and lost nothing by it. On the contrary, he gained money. But he overlooked the fact that he is acting unethically...abdicating his role as a model of enlightenment for others; one can only assume that he is simply pursuing his own interests. The negative effect of this is that when we try to convince the parents and their children that this operation is not necessary, they immediately reply that doctors do it, therefore it must be a good thing."

Crusade

Dr. Joson makes a passionate plea to the parents. He says: "Not only are the doctors the key opinion molders in this issue. The voice of the parents and even the children will be stronger—in fact, strongest. If they are convinced about the nonnecessity of circumcision, they should also voice out their stand on it for the sake of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren."

In this day and age of liposuction, breast augmentation, noselift and other cosmetic surgeries deemed simply capricious by many, Dr. Joson's crusade against unnecessary circumcision may just be a tiny voice in the wilderness. But he remains steadfast in his advocacy and many are starting to join him as he looks forward to the day when the medical community and the public can put this circumcision issue to rest and men can grow up remaining whole, still physically unaltered, and not a bit diminished because they are not circumcised.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

MALARIA

A tough disease gone drug resistant

By Charles E. Buban

A CLUSTERING of malaria cases in recent months has prompted the Department of Health (DOH) to raise the alarm to prevent its further spread and to remind communities to check their surroundings for possible breeding grounds of mosquitoes that may carry this infectious disease.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit reported a surge of cases in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, with 12 patients being admitted at the San Lazaro Hospital in a span of five months. This figure is 35 percent higher compared to the same period last year.

Apart from San Jose del Monte, the DOH also monitored a few cases in other Bulacan municipalities—Guiguinto, Meycauayan and Pulilan.

In Metro Manila, cases were monitored in Caloocan City, Navotas and Quezon City.

Drug resistant

Over the last two decades, morbidity and mortality from malaria have been increasing due to the parasite's growing resistance to. drugs. According to the World Health Organization, many forms of malaria today are resilient to drugs that used to be very effective in the past.

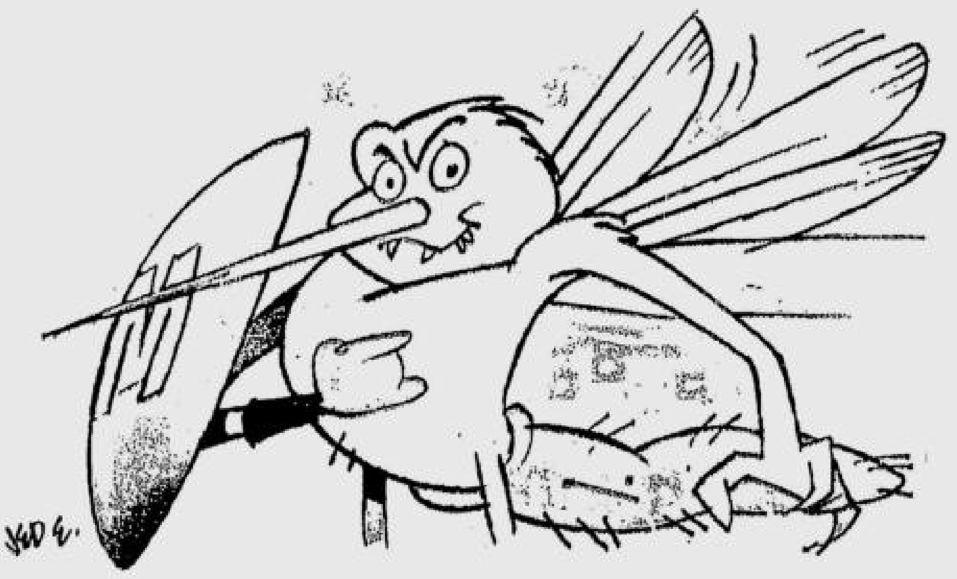
A study conducted by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in 2000 and 2002 revealed that the Philippines has not been spared from this predicament.

Cecil Hugo of the DOH said the study showed that the country has gone beyond the 25 percent treatment failure rate set by the WHO. This failure is primarily caused by many cases of malaria becoming drug resistant.

Said Hugo: "A report from Mindanao revealed that the chloroquine we used to treat malaria was fast becoming ineffective, because there was recurrence after two to three weeks on some patients. This is why we are adopting a combination therapy of chloroquine and sulfadoxine to treat cases."

Although the drug combination works, it also costs more.

"There are other effective drugs against malaria like artemisinin, a nonquinine-based drug derived from a plant, but it's not readily available here and it costs way above the price most of our patients could afford," said Hugo.



Vaccine

Work on a malaria vaccine has proceeded much more slowly than researchers would have wanted.

The most successful vaccines currently under study are attenuated vaccines, or those prepared using weakened or killed version of the malaria parasite. A US team of researchers was able to use a single protein taken from the malaria parasite, and they said the vaccine so far only worked in monkeys.

The vaccine was fortified with extra ingredients called adjuvants that overstimulate the monkey's immune system, a procedure considered too dangerous to use in humans.

2 million deaths

Malaria is caused by any of the four species of *Plasmodium*, a protozoan parasite that reaches its host through mosquito bites.

Worldwide, over two million people die and some 300 to 500 million fall sick from the disease each year. The disease is not only prevalent in Southeast Asia but also in Central and South America, the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa (where 90 percent of cases worldwide are concentrated).

Symptoms

Malaria symptoms may vary from very mild to very severe, depending on several factors.

In areas where malaria is very common, adults with the disease might have just a slight increase in body temperature. However, pregnant women and young children often have a severe illness with many symptoms, some of which could be fatal.

The most common symptom of malaria is fever. At the start of the illness the fever may either be continuous or irregular. Later, it may become regular, with attacks every two to three days. Each attack may last several hours and often begins with shivering followed by fever. Then there is profuse sweating.

During an attack the patient often complains of headache and pains in the back, joints and all over the body. There may also be loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea.

The patient may feel better the next day, but might have another attack the day after, and so on.'

Left untreated (or inadequately treated), malaria may cause several weeks or months of poor health due to repeated attacks of fever, anemia and general weakness.

Prevention

Protection from mosquito bites is the first line of defense against malaria.

The DOH provided the following measures to reduce the risk of mosquito bites and possible malaria infection:

- If possible, avoid going out between dusk and dawn when malaria mosquitoes commonly bite.
- Wear long-sleeved clothing and long trousers when going out at night. Avoid dark colors, which attract mosquitoes.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin. Choose one with DEET or dimethyl phthalate.
- Stay in a well-constructed and well-maintained building in the most developed part of town.
- Put screens on doors and windows.
- Use a mosquito net, preferably one that is treated with insecticide.
- Use anti-mosquito sprays or insecticide dispensers that contain tablets impregnated with pyrethroids, or burn pyrethroid mosquito coils at night.

A day in the life of a 'Plasmodium'

By Charles E. Buban

PEOPLE often attribute the spread of malaria to mosquitoes, but technically it is a one-celled parasite that causes the disease. Any one of four species of the parasite called *Plasmodium* causes malaria.

The parasite is spread to humans by the female *Anopheles* mosquito, which feeds on human blood. Although all four species of malaria parasites can infect humans and cause illness, only the malaria caused by *Plasmodium falciparum* is potentially life threatening.

The parasite develops in the gut of the mosquito and is passed on in the saliva of an infected insect each time it takes a new blood meal.

Anopheles mosquitoes breed in clean water that is stagnant or slow flowing.

If they're not laying eggs, the mosquitoes hide behind cupboards, clothes, curtains and other dark and cool corners during the day and come out to bite at night.

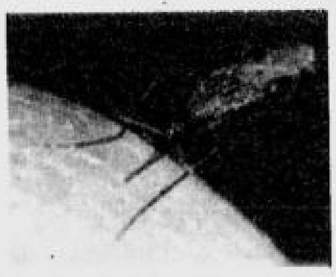
Burrows in the liver

The parasite enters the human body through a mosquito bite. As the mosquito takes in blood, it pumps in a blood-thinning saliva that contains the parasite.

Once inside the body, the parasite rides the bloodstream into the liver, where it burrows and multiplies into a cluster of thousands of parasites.

The clusters burst after a few days and the new parasites invade red blood cells and start another stage of the life cycle.

Inside the blood cell, the parasite multiplies again, making hundreds of young parasites. When the blood cell bursts, other blood cells are infected.


THE MALARIA mosquito

Eventually, up to 70 percent of the victim's red blood cells can be destroyed, leading to severe anemia, fever and even death.

If an *Anopheles* mosquito bites a victim, the insect can pick up the parasite along with the blood and the malaria life cycle starts over.

Danger signs

Several markers could help tell if somebody has malaria. Physicians usually refer to them as danger signs:

- Change in behavior (convulsions, unconsciousness, sleepiness, confusion, inability to walk, sit, speak, or recognize relatives)
- Repeated vomiting
- Inability to retain oral medication
- Inability to eat or to drink
- Passage of small quantities of urine, dark urine or no urine
- Severe diarrhea
- Unexplained heavy bleeding from the nose, gums, or other sites
- High fever (above 39 degrees Celsius)
- Severe dehydration (loose skin and sunken eyes)
- Anemia
- Turning of whites of the eyes into yellow.

Can this artificial gene stop malaria spread?

PORTLAND, Oregon—Mosquitoes carrying a man-made gene were largely unable to transmit malaria to mice in a new experiment and scientists suggest spreading such genes among wild mosquitoes could help control the deadly disease.

The gene blocks development of the tiny malaria parasite that grows inside the mosquito so it isn't passed along when the mosquito bites.

The work was reported in the journal Nature by a scientific team led by Marcelo Jacobs-Lorena, a Case Western Reserve University geneticist.

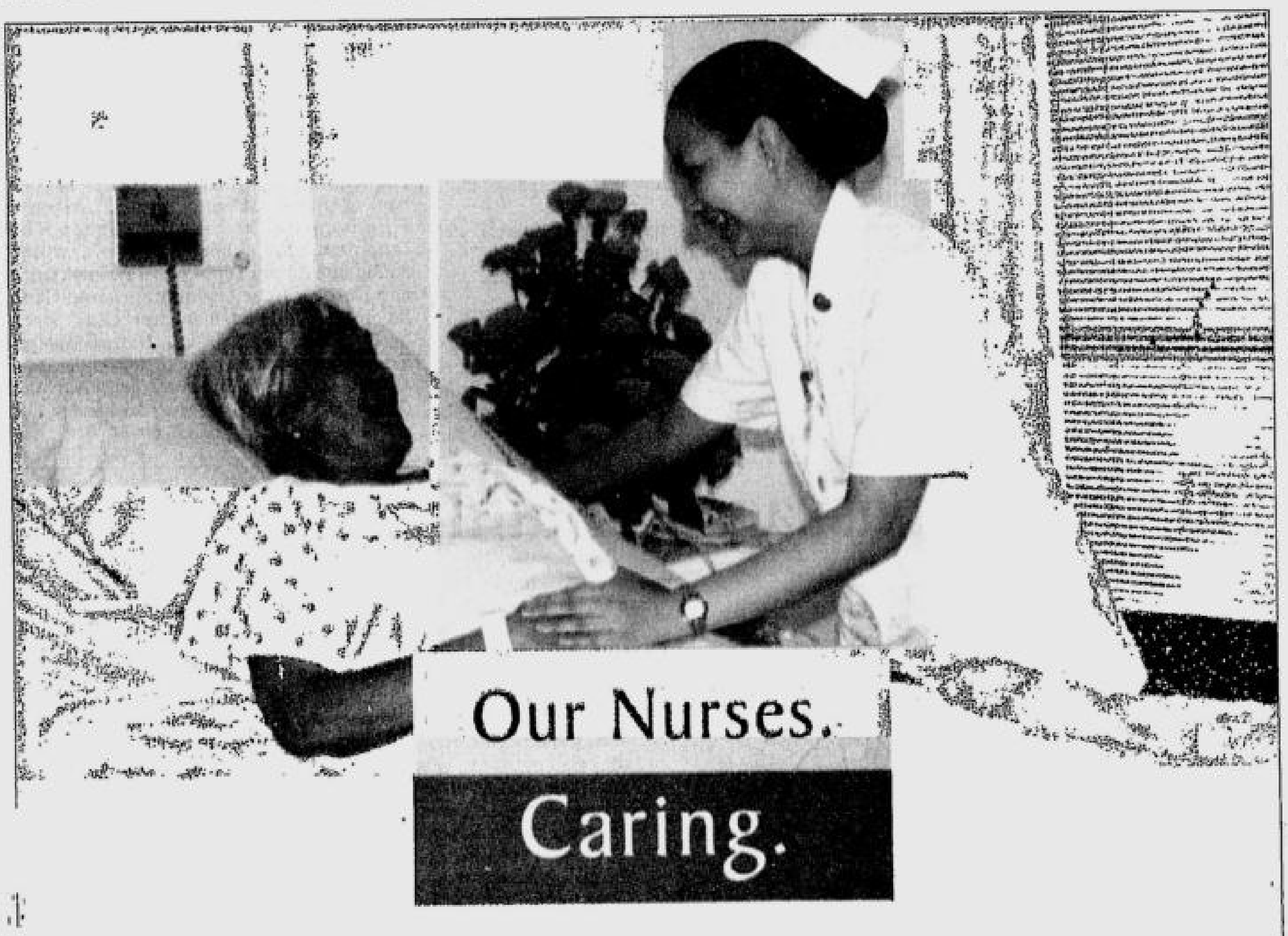
"It's a very interesting idea and a very fundamental scientific discovery," said Dyann Wirth, a Harvard microbiologist and director of the Harvard Malaria Initiative.

"From a public health point of view this may be a way to attack this disease without using chemicals like DDT or other insecticides," Wirth said.

Mosquitoes that receive the man-made gene would have to be released in the wild to get the gene into the insect population, which could raise political and social concerns, scientists said.

"We won't even eat transgenic corn let alone release transgenic mosquitoes," said Dr. Joseph Vinetz of the University of Texas Medical Branch and chief spokesperson for the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

But modifying mosquitoes genetically could be a cheap, economic means of malaria control in the poor African and Asian countries where the disease takes the worst toll, Vinetz said. **AP**



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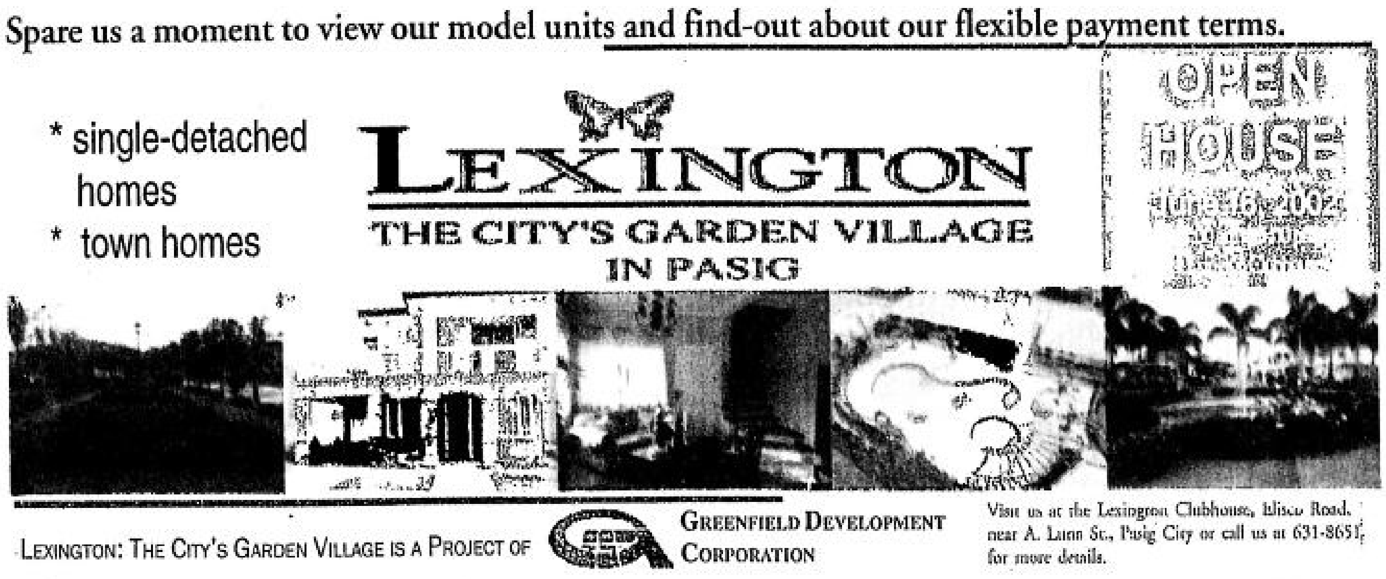
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CLARK Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone with the Wind."

'Casablanca' tops US list of movie romances

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—When it comes to movies and romance, they don't make them like they used to.

At least, that is what directors, writers, actors and other filmmakers polled by the American Film Institute think. They chose 1942's "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, as the best US love story ever told on film.

No. 2 spot

In the No. 2 spot was 1939 classic "Gone with the Wind" with Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh as the rakish Rhett Butler and determined southern belle Scarlett O'Hara, and behind those two on-again, off-again lovers were the impossibly compatible Tony and Maria of 1961 musical "West Side Story" in No. 3.

In fact, no movie made in the last 40 years could crack the top five, and only two films from the 1970s, "The Way We Were" at No. 6 and "Love Story" at No. 9 were among the top 10.

Los Angeles-based American Film Institute is a national group dedicated to film and television, and it trains filmmakers, writers and others interested in making movies and TV shows.

Series of programs

Five years ago, it began a series of programs naming the top American films in the industry's first 100 years, starting with the favorite 100 films of all-time and including the top stars, best comedies and last year's biggest thrills.

"This year, AFI . . . celebrates matters of the heart in a whole different way—more heartbreaks, heartaches and hearts bursting with love, rather than heart attacks and hearts in the throat," said AFI chief Jean Picker Firstenberg.

Rounding out the top five on the list of favorite American romances were No. 4 "Roman Holiday," a 1952 comedy that paired Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, followed by 1957's "An Affair to Remember" with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr.

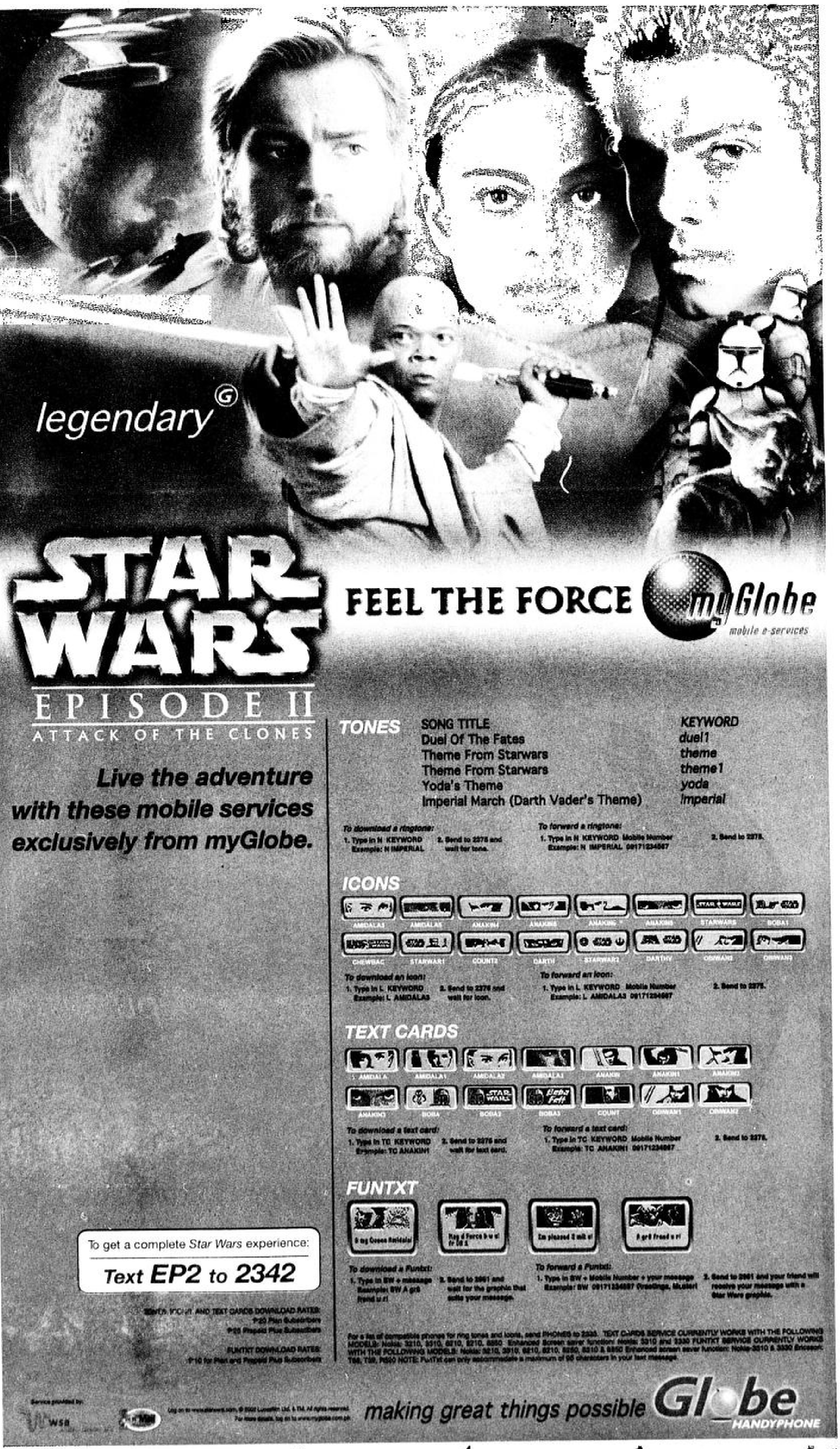
Completing the top 10 were No. 7, "Doctor Zhivago" (1965), No. 8 "It's A Wonderful Life" (1946) and No. 10, "City Lights" (1931).

Curiously, seven of the top 10 films have couples that, in the end, do not stay together, and AFI counts 187 fights in the movies compared to 260 kissing scenes.

Cary Grant stars in more of the top 100 films than any actor, and Katharine Hepburn is the most prevalent actress on the romance list, appearing in films like "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "On Golden Pond." Of the modern love stories, 1990's "Pretty Woman" starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere landed in position No. 21.

"Titanic," with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, was No. 37. "Titanic" is the highest grossing movie of all time with $1.8 billion in global box office receipts. *Reuters*

"CASABLANCA" star Ingrid Bergman.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Navajo code talkers glad to see their little-told story come to the screen

By Julie Ann Stephens

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico—When the US president placed Congressional Gold Medals around the necks of four Navajo men last summer, it thrust the World War II veterans into the limelight after 56 years of relative silence.

Only survivors

Those four, and one too ill to make the trip to Washington, are the only survivors of an elite group of 29 communications specialists—the Navajo Code Talkers—to whom many credit the Allied victory over Japan in 1945. The men developed an uncrackable code based on the Navajo language.

Now, Hollywood is trying to deliver their tale in a big-budget film to audiences worldwide.

"Windtalkers," an MGM movie starring Nicolas Cage and directed by John Woo, opens Friday in the United States. Cast members include Adam Beach, a Saulteaux Indian from Manitoba, Canada, and Roger Willie, a Navajo, as well as 50 Navajo extras and a cameo appearance by Albert Smith, a veteran code talker.

Smith said that even though the movie fictionalizes some of the code talkers' story, he's still glad to see it being shared at last.

"It's a good story on the basis of the code," he said.

Smith was one of the original 29 code talkers recruited by the Marine Corps in 1942. Eventually, about 300 Navajo Marines were trained to use the code.

Language

Few people outside the Navajo Reservation had even heard the language, and the Japanese never broke the code, which used Navajo words to represent letters or words in English. For example, the Navajo word for mmingbird—pronounced Da-he-tih-hi—referred to a fighter plane. The code word for America translated to "our mother," or Ne-he-mah.

During the Battle of Iwo Jima alone, the code talkers transmitted more than 800 error-free messages in 48 hours.

Their accomplishments have been largely absent from history books because the code was classified until 1968.

"It was top secret from the training. You couldn't take notes or anything," said Sam Billison, president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, a veterans group.

Even today, Smith doesn't talk much about his wartime experiences. Tales of battle and destruction are not part of the Navajos' oral tradition, he said.

"The elders asked us not to talk about our war stories."

Key step

The bulk of the film's action takes place during the Battle of Saipan, a key step in the United States' Pacific island-hopping campaign.

Smith, 77, appears in the movie at a bus station while Beach is leaving to join the Marines. In real life, Smith delivered coded messages about troop movements and supplies on the Marshall and Marion islands.

When word about the film spread across the expanse of the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, many Navajos wondered: How can a movie about the Navajo code talkers star Nicolas Cage, a white man?

The studio sent representatives to the reservation who explained that Cage and co-star Christian Slater play Marines charged as bodyguards for the code talkers. Producers met with the code talkers' association and hired one code talker as a consultant. The studio also held several open casting calls on and around the reservation.

In the movie, the bodyguards are given orders to protect the code at all costs, including killing code talkers if the Japanese tried to capture them.

"WINDTALKERS" star Nicolas Cage.

Bill Toledo, a code talker with the 3rd Marine Division on the Solomon Islands and in Guam, said his bodyguard was with him at all times.

Smith, however, said he never had a bodyguard and knew few other code talkers who did.

Changes

In reality, "none of the code talkers were captured," Toledo said. "But you know how Hollywood is." The movie does show a capture.

Members of the code talkers' group also read the script by John Rice and Joe Batteer and recommended some changes.

"There were several things in the script that were not kosher on the Navajo Reservation," said Billison, including one scene in which a medicine man caught a snake, cut off his head and ate the animal.

"We told them no—that is not right," Billison said.

Filmed mostly in the jungles of Hawaii, the

NAVAJO/ p. C3

Short films should be screened in moviehouses

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from people who make feature films, the local movie scene is full of young cinema artists who make short films. In fact, we daresay that we now have more makers of short films (we hate to call them short filmmakers) than directors of full-length mainstream features.

Compromises

One reason for this is the fact that it's much cheaper and easier to make a short film, as opposed to a 90-minute feature. Also, there are filmmakers who are quite happy working on short films, and have no interest in coping with the compromises that are rife on the full-length feature scene.

Some of our makers of short films turn out excellent productions. We know this from judging some short-film competitions. One such contest had many entries that were outstanding for different reasons. You don't get this high level of quality in feature-film competitions.

Trouble is, most locally-produced short films are viewed by only a few people. Even those that win awards abroad can't find a big audience locally, because there are few large-scale venues interested in screening them.

More eventful

This is a great pity, because the mainstream film audience is being deprived of the chance to enjoy these short films, many of which are fresher and more eventful than the feature films that make up the great bulk of our cinematic viewing experience.

Can anything be done to improve this situation? Many years ago, short films *were* shown during intermission in our moviehouses. Is there a film-loving mayor out there who will revive this practice in the theaters in his city? This would go a long way in linking outstanding short films with the mass movie audience.

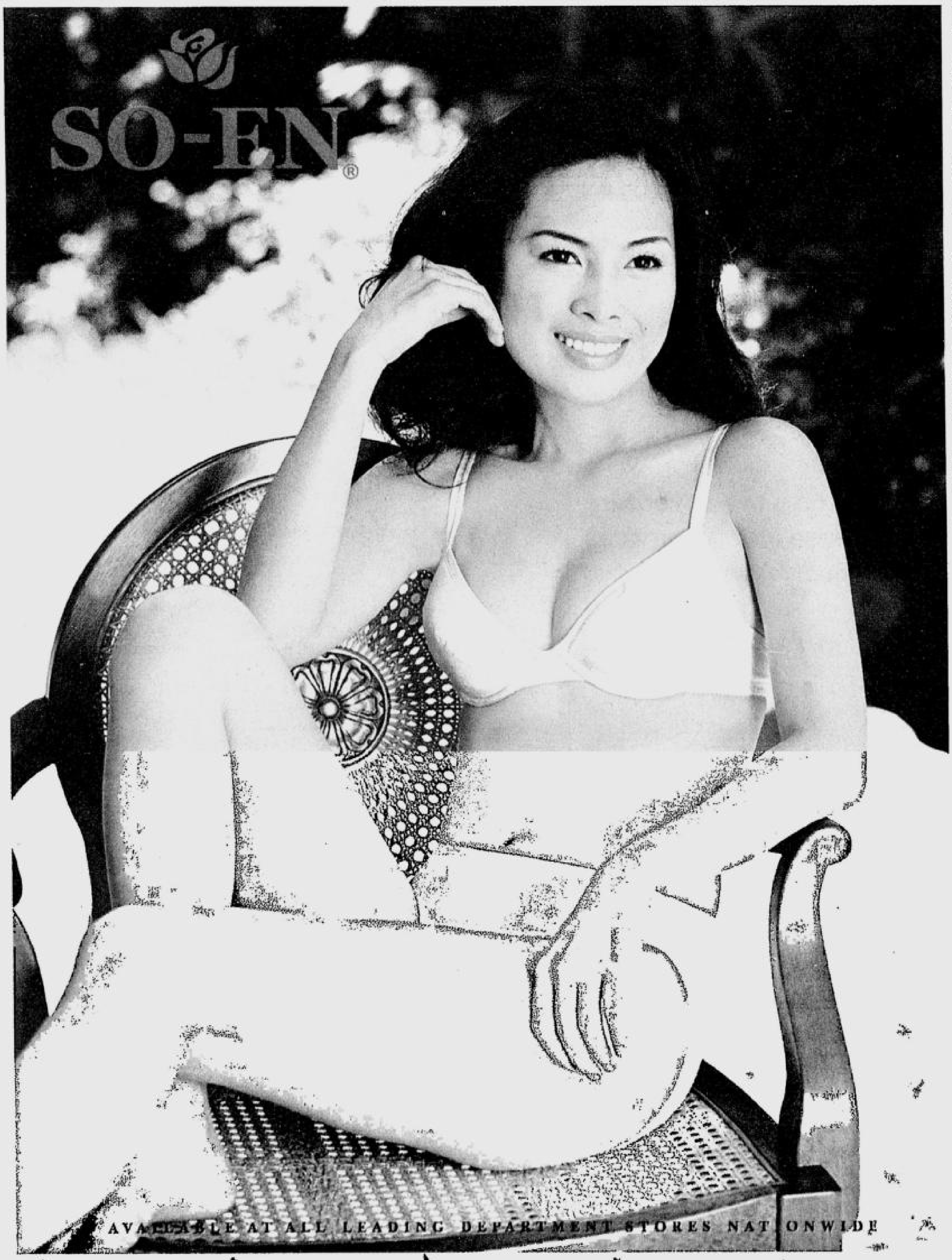
Some viewers may welcome this move, because intermissions in some theaters now run 30 minutes or even longer, and all that time is taken up by commercials and trailers. It would be a welcome change of pace if a 10-minute short film could be made part of the intermission fare.

Large audience

This way, the works of makers of short films would be viewed by a large audience, and this could hasten the entry of some of them into feature filmmaking. And the movie audience would get fresh and exciting inputs that would otherwise be kept away from them.

Of course, not all short films would be appropriate for mainstream theater screening. Some are shot in a format that moviehouses can't accommodate, or are too experimental or recondite to be appreciated by the average moviegoer.

But there are enough "accessible" and "mainstream-friendly" short films to make up an exciting list of movies that can be shown during intermission. What do you say, Mr. Mayor? And Mr. Theater Owner?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Disney, Spyglass to make live action 'Underdog'

By Doug Young

LOS ANGELES—Look up in the 21st century sky: It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a frog! . . . a frog?

No, it's "Underdog," the 1960s classic cartoon series which will return to the skies in the new millennium as a live-action film, in The Walt Disney Co.'s answer to a recent wave of movies starring repackaged classic cartoon characters.

Distribution partner

The film is a project of Spyglass Entertainment, which will finance the production with Burbank, California-based Disney as its distribution partner.

Disney also will handle all aspects of merchandise-related movie tie-ins, said Spyglass' Roger Birnbaum.

"Disney is our partner," he said. "They will work hand in hand with us. They get certain rights when they distribute our films, and some of those rights include the right to merchandise. Disney is great at this." The movie marks Disney's most recent foray into the world of nostalgia cartoon characters, following in the footsteps of Columbia Pictures' mega-hit "Spider-Man" and Warner Bros.' "Scooby-Doo," which opens this weekend amid a positive buzz.

Unusual tack

It also marks a somewhat unusual tack for Disney, which is going outside its own stable of characters in promoting the caped canine from the 1964-1973 series.

Disney's other past ventures with outside cartoon characters have included the 1999 film "Inspector Gadget," which was a moderate box office success, and the 1997 film "Mr. Magoo," which was less impressive.

The "Underdog" series revolves around a rhyme-talking dog who lives a humble life as his alter ego, the shoe shine boy, and then transforms himself into a superhero to fight off a cast of villains with names like Simon Bar-Sinister and Riff Raff.

He pines after TV reporter Sweet Polly Purebred, and is constantly rescuing her when she gets into trouble.

The TV show began with a parody of Superman's famous opening line, with its canine star correcting observers by saying, "Not bird, nor plan, nor even frog, it's just little 'ole me, Underdog!"

Fallibility

Birnbaum said the show will appeal to 21st century audiences because of its central character's fallibility. "The underdog always has the audience's attention," he said.

He said the project is still in its infancy, with no story or writer signed on yet. If all goes smoothly, however, a film could be released in as little as two years.

Columbia Pictures is unit of Sony Corp. Warner Bros. is a unit of AOL Time Warner.

Reuters

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Jaya shifts to jazz

**By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo**

JAYA recently performed at the Crossover Presents event at the Mandarin Oriental and surprised us by doing jazz numbers tempered with a bit of R&B. She would have gotten a better response if she had tried to sing pop, instead of "I'm Coming Back Again" and "Still A Friend of Mine." Those tunes didn't suit her voice.

Her rendition of the Michael McDonald medley was good. She was able to make us sit up and really listen.

"I'm excited about this show. Last year, I was just goofing around," Jaya said. But it would have been better if she loosened up, goofed around and did her usual pop songs like "Sana Maulit Muli" and "Wala Na Bang Pag-Ibig." But she did get appreciative applause when she did "Constantly," "Do You Love Me," "Better Days" and "If I'm Not In Love With You."

"Got To Get You Into My Life" got us tapping and clapping. Her "Seeing For The First Time" and Anita Baker medley stunned us into silence. She truly deserves the Queen of Soul title.

Her Natalie Cole medley with Nanette Inventor gave us a boost. Nanette and Jaya have good chemistry, they should do more duets in the future.

Her mother, Elizabeth Ramsey, did her brand of comedy and had us in stitches. She was a riot as she introduced the members of the horn section. Jaya's duet with Elizabeth, "You're Just Too Good To Be True," capped the evening.

A fine diva

Lani Misalucha is not comfortable with the term "diva." "I believe there are artists who are more deserving," she says without a hint of false modesty.

Everything about Lani is real. She's a husky alto who can do pop, standards, *kundiman* and operatic arias!

"People have said I'm a chameleon. It's an edge, but for me, versatility has also become a liability, Because people don't easily recognize my singing voice."

"*Simple lang ang* wants and needs *ko*: to have a family I can grow up with." Lani shares.

Ai Ai plays mom and 'dad'

When you listen to Ai Ai de las Alas talk about the highs and lows of single parenting, you'll be inspired by her tough grip on reality and positivity.

"*Kung sino man ang nagsasabing madali maging* single parent, *nagtatapang--tapangan yan,*" the comedienne exclaims.

With three growing kids from two failed relationships, she knows what she's talking about. "But I'm lucky to have three 'listening' children. *Lahat sila* open-minded. Ang kailangan lang ay total honesty with the kids. *Siyempre* telling them the truth should be based on their capacity to understand things," she adds.

De las Alas started shooting last Monday for "Tanging Ina," her first lead movie role, and she's exhilarated.

Jeffrey Quizon comes into his own

The more Jeffrey Quizon exerts effort to move out of his famous dad's shadow, the more unnatural he becomes as an artist.

"Sometimes, the best thing is to simply let go and embrace truth as it is and as it comes," he says with utter conviction, adding, "I will forever be the son on Dolphy—no one can change that, and I will forever be grateful."

People are saying that Jeffrey is the most deserving to inherit his father's "throne," what with his uncanny ability to get into characters his dad used to play during his time as a neophyte. "I'm very open to experiment. And I'm not afraid to fail because I know that's when I learn the most."

Jeffrey is proud of his current movie, "Utang ni Tatang." He might just win the best actor plum at the Manila filmfest for his brilliant performance in the film.

Ara Mina works hard for the money

Aside from being an actress, Ara Mina has tried her luck in business. Unfortunately, Cosmopolitan Cafe has closed shop. Ara says that it's largely due to unresolvable disagreements between the investors involved.

"I lost quite a big sum but I also learned so many priceless lessons," she told us when we bumped into her recently at the presscon of her new movie, "Diskarte."

But she lights up when talk shifts to Osteria, the restaurant that now occupies the place on Tomas Morato ave. where Casa Marcos once stood. "That one, I'm proud of. *Nagkakasundo ang mag* partners and things are running smoothly," she says.

Grace under pressure

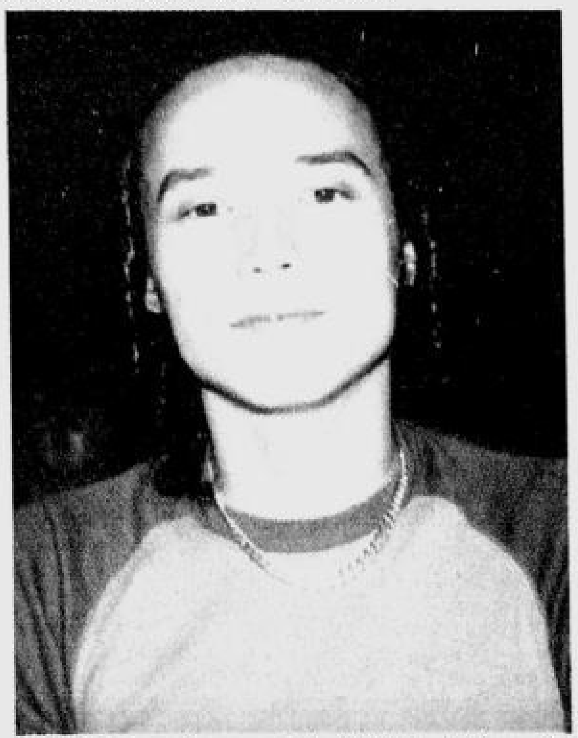
One thing that Judy Ann Santos has learned is to take things in stride. "When I know *na merong magagawa para ma*-improve *ang mga bagay-bagay,* I look back and analyze. *Pero* when I have no control over something, I think it's useless to be stressed."

Her critics say that Santos' showing at the box-office is inconsistent. While her films with Piolo Pascual raked in loads of money, her other movies with Dingdong Dantes and Luis Alandy bombed.

"I don't have control over these things," she smiles, "As long as I do my best, I have nothing to feel guilty or bad about," she says, exuding effortless grace.

Her new movie is "Magkapatid" and Judy Ann says she cherished every working day she had with megastar Sharon Cuneta. Santos feels excitement more than pressure, knowing that she has a sure box-office winner in this film.

JAYA lives up to her queen of soul title.



JEFFREY Quizon deserves to inherit his father's "throne."

Navajo code . . .

From p. C2

movie also features the red stone and sand landscapes of Navajo country. The soundtrack includes flute and drum music that invokes the spirit of native America—some of it courtesy of Willie, a flute-playing Navajo painter who makes his movie debut as code talker Charlie Whitehorse.

Willie is excited that the movie will raise awareness of the Navajos and their contribution to the war effort.

"I hope that one of the things this film will do is educate not only non-Indians, but Indian peoples themselves on . . . how important it is to understand your history and learn as much as you can about it," he said. AP

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Carl Reiner hopes to introduce new generation to Mark Twain

By Gary Gentile

BEVERLY HILLS, California--God, according to that noted expert on the deity, Carl Reiner, hates talking to anyone wearing a tongue ring.

Actually, it's Reiner who hates talking to anyone wearing a tongue ring. But that's the point. Since we are created in God's image, he must be a lot like us, Reiner reasons.

Sometime collaborator

God, by the way, also hates it that comedies never win Oscars.

"That's from Mel," Reiner says, referring to his friend and sometime collaborator, Mel Brooks.

Reiner's musings on The Almighty, published in his 1999 book, "How Paul Robeson Saved My Life and Other Mostly Happy Stories," strike the same skeptical, irreverent tone often employed by his favorite author, Mark Twain.

Reiner has won 12 Emmys, mostly for his work writing "The Dick Van Dyke Show." He won a Grammy with Brooks in 1998 for their recording of "The 2000 Year Old Man in the Year 2000."

But only one award is on display in the living room of his Beverly Hills home - the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain prize for American Humor, which he received in 2000.

"I want it out where I can see it," Reiner says. "I always felt a little bad about receiving it. There are many more great scholars of Mark Twain than me. I just love him."

Recurring role

Reiner, who will turn 80 on March 20, is known as a television writer, actor, film director and author. Far from retiring, he is hard at work, appearing in the recent Warner Bros. film "Ocean's Eleven" and landing a recurring role on an upcoming CBS television series, "Baby Bob."

He also is involved in an ambitious new project: recording all of Twain's writings.

He has done four books on tape so far. The latest, "Letters From the Earth," published by New Millennium Audio, was nominated for a Grammy this year. The second book, "The Prince and the Pauper," was nominated in 1996.

Reiner got hooked on Twain in 1950, when, as a 28-year-old writer on Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows," he first read "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

"I came to the office and I said, 'Did you guys ever read this?' Of course, they had all read it. I was a bore about it."

Years later, Reiner received a signed edition of Twain's works from the television show, "This Is Your Life." Then came Hal Holbrook's one-man show, which brought the cigar-smoking, mustachioed monologist to life. Reiner took his two children, then ages 8 and 10, to see Holbrook perform in New York.

Mesmerizing

"We went to that theater and I was transported back in time," Reiner says. "We were sitting in the second row when Holbrook came out. I sat there with my mouth open. It was mesmerizing."

Reiner also became attracted to Twain's lesser-known works, including "What Is Man?" and "Letters From the Earth--Uncensored Writings by Mark Twain." In these books, Twain expressed a disdain for organized religion, poked unmerciful fun at mankind's inflated ego and marveled at how man could kill in the name of God.

The philosophy struck Reiner as being very close to his own.

"If you have a sense of humor, you have to question everything," Reiner says. "Everything seems funny to you. Look at all of the accouterments and vestments of very religious people. Who decided they should have the hat that goes this way and that? It's theater.

"Take everybody's clothes off and you couldn't tell the prelate from the peasant. All of this is to be discussed and noticed."

If humor serves to note the emperor's nakedness, it also can be a balm in times of tragedy. "Man, when he's not in total pain, when he's reflective of where he is after he's been bandaged, will always find a way to lighten his own load by finding something humorous," Reiner says.

Biting humor

Twain himself wrote with biting humor even as he suffered through crippling financial troubles and the death of his wife and several of his children.

In "Letters From the Earth," Reiner gives voice to several characters, most notably God and Satan. In the first part of the book, Satan roams the Earth, sending back letters to his fellow archangels as he marvels at man's foolishness.

Performing the book reminded Reiner of his early days in radio, except that this time, he played all the characters. He gives God a booming, stentorian voice. He plays Satan with a lighter touch.

"Satan sounded to me like a playful guy," Reiner says. "George Sanders would probably play him in the movies. Too bad I didn't think of George Sanders; I probably would have imitated him."

Reiner is working on two more Twain books, "Travels Abroad," and one of Twain's favorites, "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc."

"He brings life to them nobody else can bring," says Michael Viner, president of New Millennium Audio. "You can make a strong argument that the best person playing Twain is Hal Holbrook, but playing Twain's characters is Carl Reiner." *AP*

REINER. "If you have a sense of humor, you have to question everything."

Anti-smoking groups call for movie ratings to factor in tobacco

By Alexa Haussler

SACRAMENTO, California—Citing a new study that examines the ties between Hollywood and cigarette makers, health advocates are calling for the film industry to incorporate tobacco as a factor in determining movie ratings.

The study, published Tuesday in the health journal Tobacco Control, said cigarette companies aggressively pursued product placement in films in the 1980s and "undertook an extensive campaign to hook Hollywood on tobacco by providing free cigarettes to actors."

"What it confirms is what we have suspected for quite some time that when stars light up in films . . . that can have a powerful influence on people," said study co-author Curtis Mekemson, a health and environmental consultant who specializes in tobacco content in movies.

The study reviewed more than 1,500 previously secret, internal tobacco industry documents made public through a landmark 1998 tobacco settlement.

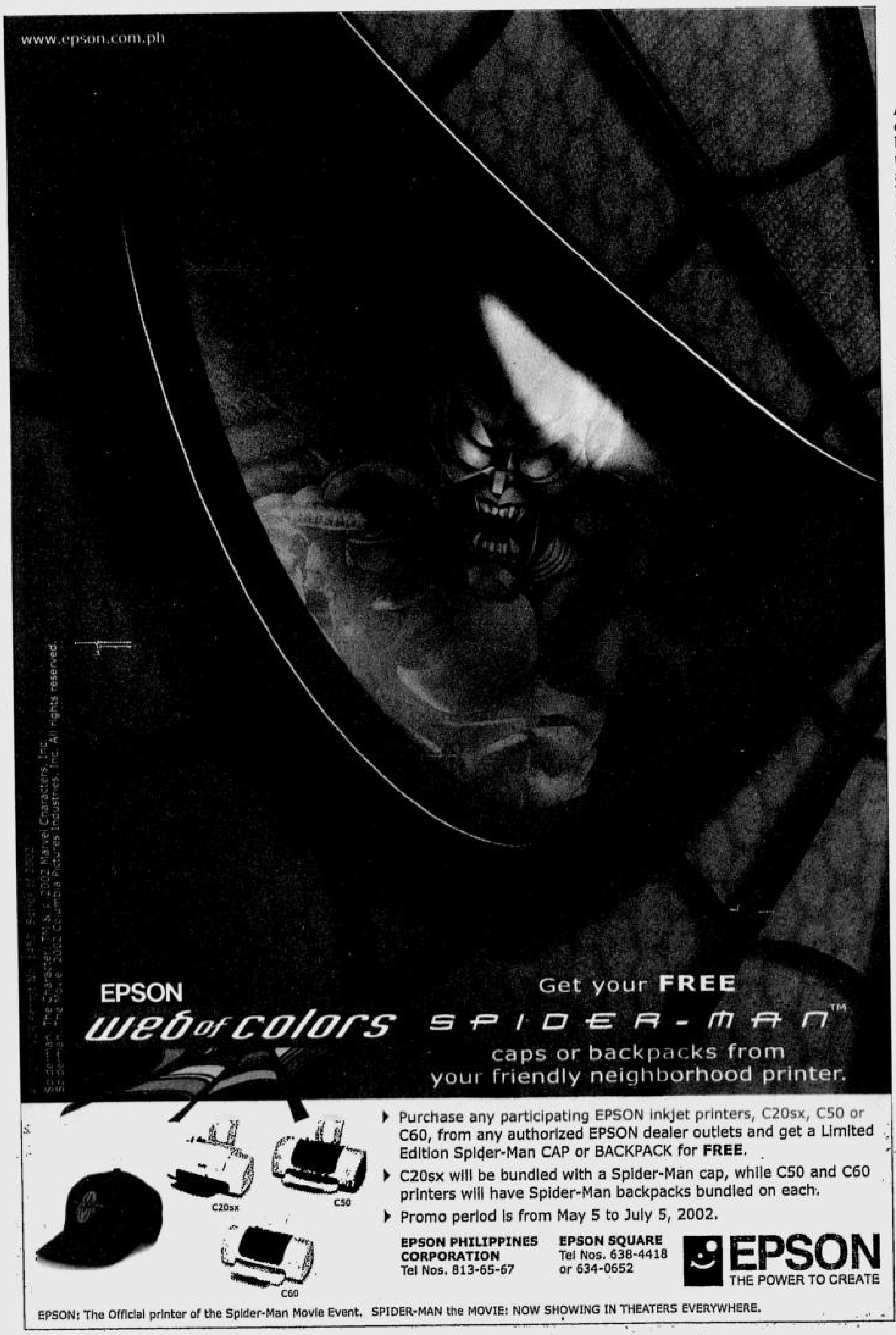
Agreement

Under the agreement, the four largest manufacturers—Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson and Lorillard—pledged to make payments for 25 years to reimburse public costs of treating sick smokers.

Before that, under public and government pressure, the film industry adopted a voluntary ban on direct tobacco placement payments in 1989.

Still, tobacco use was featured in nearly 85 percent of the top 25 highest-grossing movies released each year from 1988 through 1997, according to a study released in 2001 by Dartmouth Medical School.

The current film ratings system is administered by the Motion Picture Association of America. A Los Angeles-based ratings board takes into account theme, violence, nudity, language, sensuality, drug abuse and other elements when assigning a rating. *AP*



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Focus on alternative medicine

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A YEAR ago, my health was in a disastrous state and I became bedridden for some weeks. After that, I walked with great difficulty and pain. My blood pressure also became very erratic and unstable. I went to the best specialists, but the more they tried to cure my problem, the worse I felt.

Blood pressure

One day, I decided to stop taking the prescribed medicines. I felt better but my blood pressure would still go up. I went back to my alternative doctor and told her that she should treat me because I refused to go back to the hospital. I got better with her help, as well as the assistance of a neurologist who gave me medicine to control my blood pressure and who also allowed me to go on with my alternative regimen.

My health started getting better. Now, my body is stronger and I am again able to move about more freely. I have also started on enzymes, green food and detoxification. I want to share with you some of the important things I have learned along the way:

I met someone who is in direct contact with doctors practicing alternative medicine using natural plants and herbs in other countries. He has a wealth of information on doctors practicing in the Philippines who can help those suffering from various diseases.

Carnivore

In 1975, this person was working with a company in Osaka, Japan. At that time, he was a carnivore who ate lots of eggs and steaks because he believed that this was a good diet to build strong muscles.

It was inevitable that his body became really sick. His cholesterol level rose to 360. The doctors in the hospitals prescribed pills so that he could go on eating meat while trying to control his cholesterol level.

It was fortunate that he came upon the book of nutritionist Adele Davis, who said that to lower cholesterol levels, all that a person had to do was to change his diet. My friend changed his diet and, in a few weeks, his cholesterol reading went down to 240. Eventually, it became normal. His health improved and his weight went down to an ideal level.

One night he felt a terrible pain in his spine. The doctor said he had a crack in his spine and would need to wear a brace.

Chiropractor

My friend decided to see a chiropractor instead. In minutes my friend was able to stand up, and all his pain was gone. He went back to the doctor and boasted, "Look, I'm well, no more pain in my back!"

The doctor examined him and pounded on the spine, and when my friend stood up, all the pain returned! My friend went back to the chiropractor who said that it will now take longer to cure him.

These experiences made my friend wary of doctors and hospitals, and he started doing his own research. He found really good and kind doctors who cared about curing patients instead of just making money. Next week, I will share with you his discoveries and practical findings.

Japan . . .

From p. C5

In his home market, Miyazaki benefits from the general popularity of animation and printed cartoons, known collectively as "manga," with Japanese of all ages. Commuting businessmen often read cartoon books on the train and historians trace the origins of manga back to comic picture scrolls created more than 1,000 years ago.

At a recent weekday lunchtime showing of "Spirited Away," the audience consisted almost entirely of adults.

"Up until now I thought manga was for children, but I wanted to see this film because it had become such a talking point," said housewife Atsuko Hiyoki, who praised the film for its dream-like quality.

However, manga remains a minority interest for grown-ups in many countries, limiting the audience for Miyazaki's latest blockbuster.

"I think it will go down well with the critics, but may not do so well at the box office," said Onitsuka.

US distribution details for the film are to be announced shortly, Studio Ghibli said. *Reuters*

Elvis poised to hit No. 1 in UK with remix

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—The king is back. Elvis Presley, who has battled the Beatles for the most No. 1 hits on the UK charts, is poised to grab the crown with a new version of an obscure tune that barely charted when it first came out 34 years ago, RCA officials said on Wednesday.

Brisk sales

A dance remix of "A Little Less Conversation," which Presley performed in his 1968 film "Live a Little, Love a Lot," has been drawing brisk sales and heavy radio airplay in Britain since it was released there as a single on Monday.

The recording is expected to top the British singles charts next week, breaking the long-running tie between Presley and the Beatles for the most No. 1 hits in the United Kingdom, which currently stands at 17 apiece, an RCA spokesman said.

The original version of the song reached No. 69 on the US singles charts in 1968 and failed to chart at all in Britain.

But the record books will contain an asterisk, as the new recording takes some liberties with the song as it was originally performed by the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

Dance loops

The updated version of "A Little Less Conversation" adds a minute-long electronic introduction, surrounds Presley's vocals with new rhythms and beats and extends the song with dance loops and techno tracks.

"If you hear the first minute of the song, you would have no idea that it's Elvis. It sounds like a techno song," said RCA general manager Richard Sanders. "And when you hear his voice kick in, it's like, 'Oh, my, that's Elvis!"

Sanders said it marks the first contemporary remix of Presley's music allowed by RCA, a unit of Bertelsmann AG's BMG. RCA owns rights to the original master recordings of Presley's entire catalog, a spokesman said.

The six-minute-plus recording is the work of popular Amsterdam-based DJ and producer JXL. He was licensed by RCA and Elvis Presley Enterprises to remix the song for the soundtrack to Nike's 90 million worldwide ad campaign tied to the World Cup soccer tournament.

Three-minute version

The full-length remix, a three-minute version edited for radio and the original version of the song are all contained on the single, which is due for release in the United States on June 25.

The original song also appeared last year on the soundtrack to the hit movie "Ocean's Eleven," which starred George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

Presley is likely to return to the charts again this fall when RCA releases a one-CD collection of 30 of his No. 1 hits to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his death. That album, titled "ELV1S 30 # 1 Hits" is due out Sept. 24 in the US.

He died on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis, Tenn., at age 44. *Reuters*

PRESLEY. New version of an obscure tune.

Japan film faces uncertain reception in US

By Isabel Reynolds

TOKYO—"Spirited Away," the highest-ever grossing film in Japan scooped up the top award at the Berlin Film Festival, but critics say box office success in the world's other major film markets is far from assured.

Animated epic

Some fear the animated epic, with its distinctive combination of the cute and the grisly, may suffer the same fate as director Hayao Miyazaki's previous domestic hit, "Princess Mononoke."

After grossing $150 million in Japan, "Princess Mononoke" passed almost unnoticed by US filmgoers. It took in only around $2.3 million in the United States, despite rave reviews and an English-language soundtrack performed by Hollywood stars including Billy Bob Thornton and Clare Danes.

Japanese earnings for "Spirited Away" have leapfrogged those of "Princess Mononoke" and even "Titanic" to reach a mammoth 29.4 billion yen ($219 million).

"The images are amazing. I don't think anyone in the world can equal the techniques achieved by Miyazaki and his team," said one magazine film critic, who declined to be identified.

Financial success

The film's financial success, echoed in smaller Asian markets, cemented Miyazaki's position as Japan's most successful director of any film in terms of domestic box office returns.

The award of a Golden Bear at Berlin, the first-ever for an animated film, perhaps goes some way to recognizing how influential Miyazaki's visual style has been for US animation directors.

"Spirited Away" follows the adventures of young Chihiro and her parents, who lose their way in a forest and happen upon a mysterious gateway leading to a parallel world of bizarre gods and monsters.

After her mother and father are transformed into pigs by the human-hating goblins, Chihiro is forced to work as a maid in a busy spa resort catering to stressed out supernatural beings.

With the help of some of the more friendly gods, she tries to muster the courage to rescue her parents and escape.

"Spirited Away" is the latest in a long line of domestic hits for director Miyazaki, born in Tokyo in 1941. His name and that of Studio Ghibli, the animation team he founded, have become household words in Japan.

The question remains as to whether Miyazaki's stunning, but peculiarly Japanese vision can pull in mass audiences in other countries.

Target audience

One of the problems faced by "Princess Mononoke" in the US was that its target audience of children was deterred by its PG-13 rating, indicating parents were strongly cautioned the film might contain material inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Japanese are much more relaxed about how much violence their children see . . . 'Mononoke' was recommended for children, even though you actually see a samurai's head being cut off, for example," said Daisuke Onitsuka, a film critic and university lecturer.

Ironically, Miyazaki has often tried to differentiate his own work from that of other contemporary Japanese animation directors, whom he criticizes for their excessive focus on sex and violence.

Because of their subject matter "there is a chance that the spread of Japanese animation overseas might only lead to embarrassment," he said.

"Spirited Away" is less violent than its predecessor, but still includes disturbing images, such as characters being swallowed whole by a faceless monster, that would probably shock an audience of Disney fans.

"I think it is more suitable for young adults than for children," said the magazine critic. "I've heard a lot of my friends' children cried because they found it frightening."

Taking responsibility

The theme of a young girl working and taking responsibility for her parents might also be difficult for children to understand, she said.

JAPAN/ p. C4

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Popular art deco advertising posters say a lot about China's past and present

By William Ide

TAIPEI, Taiwan—At first, it was just the simple details of a 1920s cigarette advertisement he saw in a Shanghai alley that captured his imagination: a beautiful Chinese woman with cheeks red with rouge, pearls hanging around her neck, a blue dress hugging her body.

Growing number

Norwegian diplomat Trond Lovdal bought the deco ad poster and in the past six years, he has collected about 500 more originals. He is part of a growing number of art collectors, history buffs and antique lovers worldwide who are fascinated with the images on "Shanghai posters."

The pictures now appeal to Lovdal because he says they are a visual tour of the birth of modern commercialism in China, the liberation of Chinese women and the blending of Eastern and Western culture in the 1920 and 1930s in Shanghai—China's brash capital of style and business.

"Whenever you buy a new poster, you learn something new about that time," said Lovdal, who is the deputy director of the Norwegian Trade Office in Taiwan.

Lovdal is displaying 60 posters from his collection in the Taipei County Cultural Bureau's arts museum.

In one picture, a pink floral silk gown appears to be slipping off the body of a smiling beauty with thick curls, revealing her bare back and her shapely thighs and calves. An ad for Lever Bros. soap shows a woman in a lime-colored traditional "qipao"—a tight-fighting, high-necked dress with a slit that reaches high up the thigh.

Reputation

When the pictures were made, Shanghai had already gained the reputation of being the "Paris of the East." The latest fashion, cultural and business trends flowed into the southern port city.

But when the Communists took control in 1949, their aversion to Western ideals and "capitalist decadence" closed Shanghai to the outside world for about 30 years. It wasn't until the past two decades when China began to open up again that Shanghai began climbing back to its former position as an Asian business and style capital.

"People are fond of the posters because they represent the Shanghai back then which is very much like the Shanghai now," Lovdal said.

Motif

The posters are popping up everywhere—in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as art galleries in Paris, Boston, New York, Tokyo and San Francisco. The motif lives on in postcards, coasters, refrigerator magnets and calendars.

The posters revolutionized the advertising business in Shanghai. Before they appeared, ads by foreign companies featured past US presidents like Abraham Lincoln or George Washington and failed to catch the attention of Chinese consumers.

It wasn't until a Christian missionary tipped off foreign companies to how popular poster calendars were that the advertising fad began, said Wei Te-wen, a Taiwanese publisher and serious poster collector.

"It was the beginning of modern advertising in China," Wei said.

The range of products displayed increased with the popularity of the posters, and included some more familiar brands such as Ever Ready batteries.

TROD Lovdal, a Norwegian diplomat based in Taiwan, describes details of an early Chinese deco advertisement poster or "Shanghai Poster," during the opening of an exhibition featuring pieces of his private collection in Taipei.

Many of the women who posed for the posters were movie stars. Among them, Ruan Ling-yu, China's Marilyn Monroe, who had a similar fate to her American counterpart. She committed suicide at the age of 25, leaving behind only a note that read, "Rumors are deadly."

New liberation of women

Although in many ways the posters exploited the woman as sex objects, they also celebrated the new liberation of women who weren't consumed by domestic drudgery and could go out and have fun.

Some women are shown smoking, and others are shown with slicked-back hair dancing in the short skirts with folded-over hems that were fashionable in 1920s.

"We see women moving away from the traditional role of staying at home," Wei said. *AP*

Emilio Estevez wants to make film on Robert Kennedy

ESTEVEZ. Also wrote the script for the project.

By Cathy Dunkley

HOLLYWOOD—Actor-filmmaker Emilio Estevez will direct and likely star in a drama he is developing about the 1968 assassination of Robert Kennedy.

16 hours

Estevez also wrote the script for the project, which is tentatively titled "Bobby." It's set in the 16 hours leading up to the assassination and revolves around 23 characters who witnessed the events. The film interweaves a number of different storylines and culminates in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles as Kennedy is assassinated.

The project, which will next go out to cast, is expected to start shooting in August.

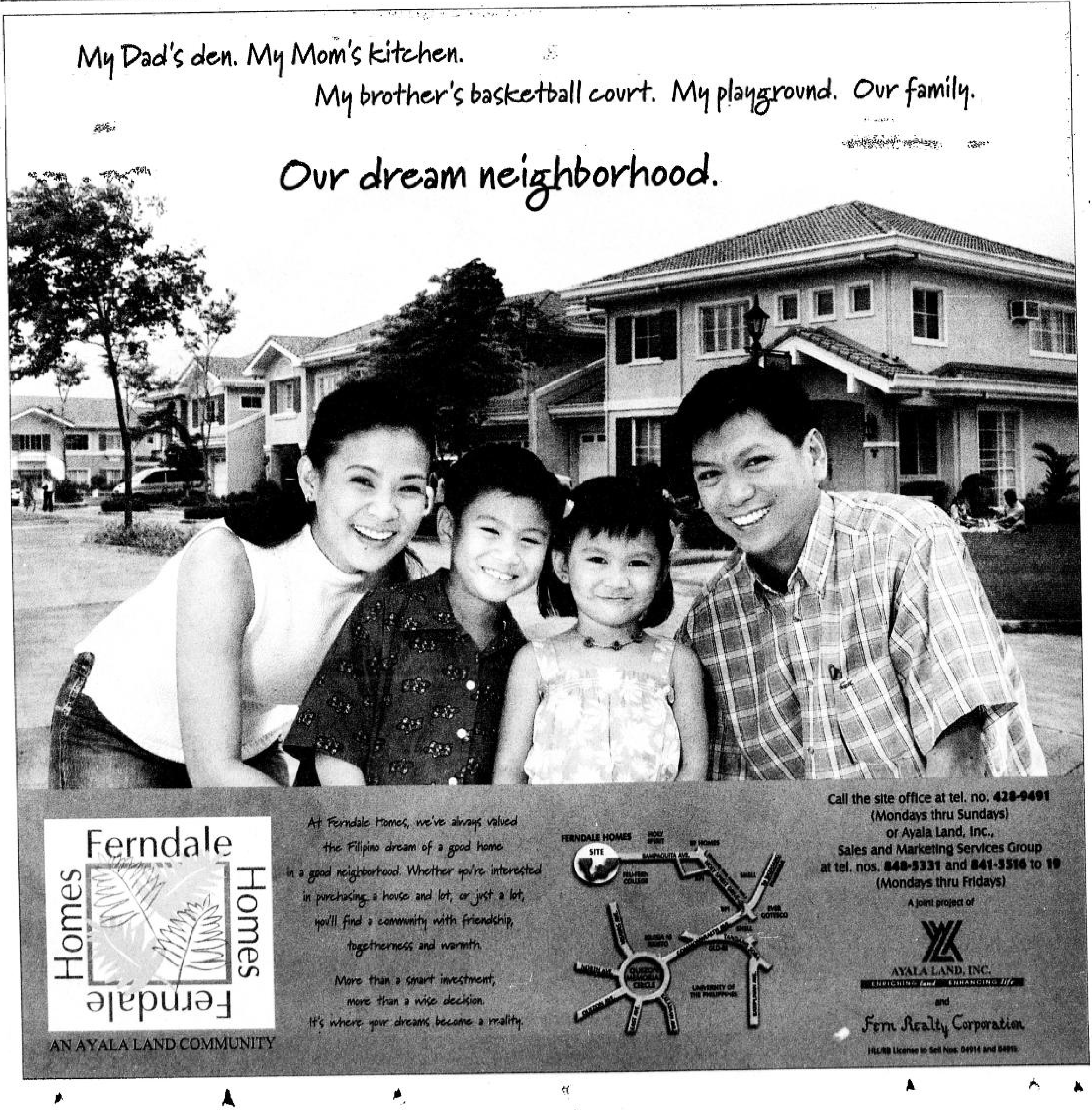
Estevez started developing the film two years ago after taking part in a photo shoot at the historic hotel for the film "Rated X," which he directed and starred in with his brother, Charlie Sheen.

Promise

"The hotel itself was something of a microcosm of the counrty at the time, reflecting the racial divisions in the US at the time and how divided people were about Vietnam," Estevez told Daily Variety. "It was important if your were a 19-year-old man at the time that Bobby Kennedy was elected president because his promise was to get us out of the war rather than escalate it."

Estevez said he intends to license newsreel footage, as well as make use of the speech Robert Kennedy gave after Martin Luther King was shot.

"It's an incredibly intricate story about a group of people caught in a particular moment in time which gives us amazing insight into American society and the issues people were facing in their lives," said producer Stewart Till, whose Signpost Films has partnered on the project with Estevez.



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Fox turns to Yahoo to promote films online

SUNNYVALE, Calif.—A unit of Fox Entertainment Group Inc. said Wednesday it struck an online promotional and market research deal pact with Yahoo! Inc. to promote its films, marking Fox's largest ad commitment to an Internet media company.

Sharp decline

The deal comes at a time when Yahoo is aggressively seeking deals with large companies that encompass more than just advertising to offset the sharp decline in ad spending. Traditional companies have been testing the online ad waters, seeking metrics that prove the value of their investments.

Terms of the deal between Fox Filmed Entertainment and Yahoo, which involves the studio's domestic movies and home entertainment initiatives, were not disclosed.

Yahoo signed a similar promotional deal with Sony Pictures Digital Entertainment last year.

Effectiveness

Twentieth Century Fox and Yahoo will also monitor the effectiveness of the online marketing on Fox's theatrical ticket sales and home entertainment purchases for the first time as part of the deal.

Fox's digitally animated "Ice Age" and "Minority Report," a film directed by Steven Spielberg, will be among the first titles promoted through the deal.

Videos including "Don't Say A Word," starring Michael Douglas, the Farrelly brothers comedy "Shallow Hal," and "Behind Enemy Lines" with Gene Hackman will also be promoted through the deal. *Reuters*

VIDEOS of "Don't Say a Word," starring Michael Douglas (above) and "Ice Age" will be among the first titles to be promoted via the internet.

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SATURDAY *Special*

'Insomnia' is an inventive crime thriller

By David Germain

PACINO. Spellbinding performance.

NEW YORK—This month marks the traditional start to Hollywood's big summer season, yet we've already had two of summer's biggest blockbusters ("Spider-Man" and "Star Wars") and two rock-solid "counterprogramming" films for adults ("Unfaithful" and "About a Boy").

Now comes counterprogrammed triumph No. 3.

Heartless killer

"Insomnia," Christopher Nolan's follow-up to the indie smash "Memento," is an inventive crime thriller with startling twists, macabre humor and spellbinding performances from Al Pacino and Robin Williams, who plays against type as a

'INSOMNIA'/ p. D7

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Al Quinn directs Globe bash, Rufa Mae promotes 'Super B'

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN it comes to directing live musical specials, no one beats Al Quinn. His recent triumph was the "Globe to the Fifth Power" bash held at the Araneta Coliseum. That was a daunting assignment since the telecom giant invited a long list of musical performers, plus the Hotlegs, Abzstract Dancers, Powerdance and Kids at Work. What a complex assignment Al faced!

He had to tape the show as live and air it on GMA-7 at 9 p.m., so he didn't have time to edit the shots he took of the show. We watched the live performance at the Araneta Coliseum. In spite of his huge cast, Al had only a few miscues and he managed to focus on the individual performers and presented a well-executed production.

Al started out as a choreographer so he knew how to position his cameras to take various angles of the numbers and did not make them appear as the trite musical numbers one sees on noontime television. His cameras took you right into the performance. He did not take safe long shots that shrank his performers on the boob tube. Instead, he took risky shots close to where the action was. The result: viewers had a better view of the program than most of the people at the Big Dome.

We had a good seat so we were able to enjoy the performances. Gary V started the festivities with an energetic interpretation of "Celebration" with other artists, but we were disappointed that he did not come back later in the show to do a solo number. Dingdong Dantes looked uncomfortable with the choreography.

We were quite impressed by the dance number featuring Ralion Alonzo, Lana Asanin and the Powerdance, who used the giant keyboard of a cell phone to showcase their dance steps. Sunshine Cruz looked quite fit as she sang her number, no sign of the extra weight she put on after giving birth, while Vernie Varga sizzled in her Latin number.

JANNO Gibbs, Geneva Cruz, Gary V., Sunshine Cruz and Franco Laurel at the Globe celebration.

Rachel Alejandro, Calvin Millado and RJ Rosales used their theater background to advantage when they did their Broadway medley.

While this was a promo for Globe, the program did not spend too much time promoting its products. Instead, the company gave away millions of pesos and five BMWs.

Incidentally, one of the five winners who won a million pesos could not be contacted by Globe. That's too bad—a million pesos is a lot of money. Another million was won by the Monterey meat shop, so will the company let its employees divide the prize?

Rufa Mae vs Sharon

Rufa Mae Quinto was all over television last week promoting her movie "Super B" in her rubberized superhero outfit. We wonder how many gallons of sweat she lost in the process. She admitted to us at a presscon just how warm the costume made her feel. She also told us that getting made up and wearing her outfit took more than two hours so it was quite a chore doing promo for the movie.

But Rufa Mae is game when it comes to pitching her movie. She idolizes the director, long-time friend Joyce Bernal. She is also glad that the movie will widen her audience to include young viewers.

Viva has high hopes for "Super B" because fantasy films usually do well during filmfests. Entertainment writers teased Rufa about the possibility of her movie beating "Magkapatid" a Sharon Cuneta-Judy Ann Santos starrer. The sexy actress could only giggle.

UNDERSTUDY'S LIFE

Waiting to go on for the show's main performer

(Conclusion)

By Justin Glanville

"IF I was back here being a little back-stabber, going, 'Oh, I could do that so much better,' that would serve no purpose whatsoever," he says. "I know Patrick is an amazing talent, so I'm honored to be his understudy."

Understudies everywhere must have taken heart last month when the little known Brad Oscar stepped into the role of Max Bialystock in "The Producers." Oscar had understudied the original Bialystock, Nathan Lane, before Lane left the production.

Sutton Foster, star of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," lived a similar fairy tale last year. Erin Dilly had originally been given her role, but developed vocal problems during the show's pre-New York tryout. Foster, Dilly's understudy, won the lead.

One of the biggest challenges of understudying, Buntrock says, is adhering to a principal's performance closely enough that a show's other actors aren't thrown off.

During the run of the musical "Jane Eyre," he went on for the lead, James Barbour, three times. The first two times he played it safe, closely emulating Barbour's performance. "The third time, I thought I could act it, my own inflections, and it just fell apart.

I started forgetting lines. And that was the last time I went on, so I never redeemed myself," he says with a laugh.

Free rein

According to Bodnar, "You have to respect what's going on out there at night. But Mitchell has also given me a lot of free rein to be myself. And that's a gift."

Buntrock, 33, got his big break in 1999, when he was cast as the lead in the national tour of "Martin Guerre," by the authors of "Les Miserables." The musical was headed for Broadway, and stardom for Buntrock seemed imminent, but a New York production never happened. The show's producer, Cameron Mackintosh, blamed lack of theater space in New York.

The first offer Buntrock got after "Martin Guerre" folded was as a supporting player and understudy to the lead in "Jane Eyre," which had a brief run on Broadway last year.

"At first, I was like, 'understudy?'" says Buntrock, who thought it was the producers' way of saying he was "not quite the right talent for the part, but just good enough to get in there."

In the end, he took the job. His change of heart, he confesses, stemmed partly from financial considerations—he has a 7-year-old daughter in Chicago to support. "Being on Broadway is a good paycheck," he says.

Same reason

He had also adopted a more laissez-faire attitude toward his career following "Martin Guerre." It's the same reason he took his current job in "Oklahoma!"

"I don't need to be a star. I would rather just be respected for being a hard worker and be trusted to do a good job," he says. "You always have to think that there are thousands of other young men who would want to have this job in a second."

And who knows? There's always the possibility that Buntrock will end up singing about beautiful mornings full-time.

After all, scores of performers have achieved fame after paying their dues as understudies, among them: Walter Matthau, Joanne Woodward, Kevin Spacey and Patricia Neal.*AP*

SPIRIT OF '67 IN BENEFIT SHOW

Spirit of '67 will perform hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s at the Zillion Discotheque (formerly Limits Disco) on June 22. The show is presented by Destiny Cable for the benefit of the Bantay Bata Foundation. The dance floor opens at 8 p.m. and the band performs at 9 p.m.
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Is it true love or just sexual flirtation for Grant and Bullock?

By Luke Baker

CANNES, France—British heartthrob Hugh Grant recently fueled rumors of a blossoming romance with sexy co-star Sandra Bullock, telling reporters she was in love with him, but he was just in it for the sex.

Flirtatious asides

In Cannes to promote their new romantic comedy "Two Weeks Notice," Grant and Bullock were all flirtatious asides and sexual innuendo, stoking talk that the loveable rogue may finally have found love after Liz Hurley.

"Sandy is in love with me, and I really like Sandy, but for me it's just a sex thing," Grant, 41, quipped when asked about rumors of a relationship between the two.

Bullock, the star of "Speed" and "A Time to Kill," didn't miss a beat, saying: "I really like Hugh, but I'm just not ready to have sex yet. We've held hands and kissed a couple of times, but we haven't done the sex thing."

The rumor mill has been spinning wildly since the couple turned up at the Oscars together and flirted outrageously for the cameras, with Grant feeding his companion chewing gum and joking that Bullock, 37, was expecting his baby.

High-powered lawyer

Asked about "Two Weeks Notice," in which Bullock plays a high-powered lawyer assigned to an overly demanding millionaire playboy (Grant), the floppy-haired Englishman was suggestive.

"Sandy and I have been trying to get together and do it for about four years—make a movie together that is. Finally we found something that was truly romantic and truly funny." The film is reported to be a lot more raunchy than most romantic comedies, something Bullock didn't deny, saying the film was likely to get audiences hot under the collar.

"It's very sexual and we do it in lots of different positions. In fact, we have different positions depending on which country the movie is being released in," she said.

"For the British version there's a lot of spanking," quipped Grant. "And the Greek version I can't even begin to tell you about." Describing Bullock as a "bombshell," Grant whispered flirtatiously in her ear throughout the press conference, and the pair relished sparring with one another.

"I don't mind being linked with Hugh at all," teased Bullock.

"No. In fact, I think it's very good for your image," the Englishman joked back.

Lewd act

"It's not as if your image is exactly squeaky clean, Hugh," she responded, alluding to the fact Grant was caught in a "lewd act" with a Los Angeles prostitute in 1995 and arrested.

Bullock, who was in Cannes to promote the thriller "Murder By Numbers" as well as "Two Weeks Notice," has been linked to various leading men but has always cautiously guarded the details. She was once engaged to actor Tate Donovan.

"I've always been very skeptical about marriage, because I only want to do it once," she has said. "The only reason I haven't married yet is because I take it too seriously." *Reuters*

AMERICAN actress Sandra Bullock and British actor Hugh Grant pose as they promote their film "Two Weeks Notice" at Cannes. AP

Ravi Shankar's daughter finds her jazzy pop striking a chord

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—When Norah Jones was 11, her mother took her to a big-band jazz concert at the University of North Texas campus near their home. The college boys were cute, but Jones was transfixed by the one woman on stage.

Interesting world

"She had this blond ponytail and she looked so cool up there with all those guys," Jones recalled. "The music was really cool and it just seemed like an interesting world."

Barely a dozen years later, Jones is the cool one.

She was drawn into that interesting world, and her debut disc, "Come Away With Me," is attracting attention for its self-assured, sultry pop. She sounds a little like fellow Southerner Shelby Lynne—if Lynne were aiming to please a jazz audience.

With little radio airplay but some rapturous reviews, her disc has sold more than 160,000 copies and made Billboard's Top 40 albums, unusual for a release on the jazz-oriented Blue Note label.

"There's been so much overproduced junk out there for so long that when something like this comes out that's very pure, very direct and with a voice that will break your heart, people react to it," said Bruce Lundvall, Blue Note's president.

Extensive music collection

Jones listened to Bon Jovi and Nirvana growing up. But thanks to her mom's extensive music collection, she was also exposed to Billie Holliday, Etta James, Ray Charles and Bill Evans.

"Music came naturally to me," she said. "I knew that just from being in music classes my whole life; I would just sort of get it the first or second time. I've been very lucky."

Jones started singing publicly at age 16 in the Dallas area, and studied jazz piano for two years at North Texas.

She always wanted to make it in New York City, however, and headed north after her sophomore year. Jones waitressed and took whatever gigs she could find, earning $10 an hour to sing to chattering patrons in dreary bars.

Armed with a three-song tape of her work, Jones made contact with a Blue Note accountant who set up an appointment with Lundvall.

The story has become instant legend at Blue Note. Lundvall was wearily expecting another Diana Krall sound-alike, but was blown away by what he heard. After blurting out one question, asking Jones where she was from, "I said, 'You're going to be signed to Blue Note Records.'"

Only once before, for singer Rachelle Ferrell a decade earlier, had he offered a contract to someone on the spot.

Captivated

"I was just totally captivated by the voice," he recalled. "It just drew you right in. My first impression was she didn't sound like anyone else, she has this wonderfully seductive voice and she plays a great piano."

Jones set to work recording her debut, but Lundvall rejected the first attempt. The music sounded too cluttered, and emphasized the guitar instead of Jones' voice.

He sent Jones back into the studio, this time with veteran producer Arif Mardin. The result was a disc that left more room for the music to breathe, emphasizing the piano with a few other instrumental touches.

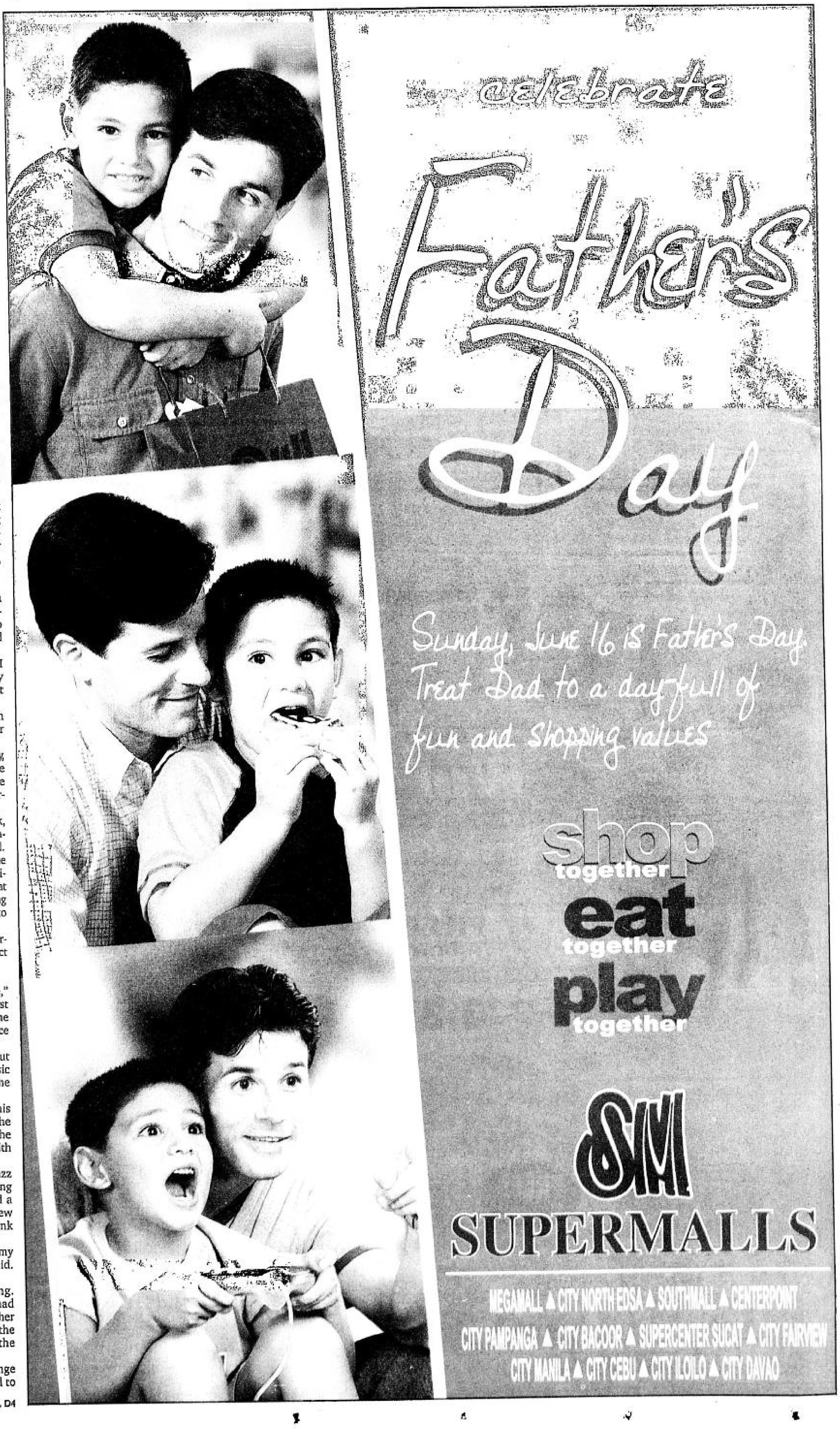
Meanwhile, Jones was moving beyond jazz in the music she and her band were writing and performing. Jazz inflections remained a part of her work, but it's safe to assume few Blue Note artists ever cut a cover of Hank Williams' "Cold Cold Heart."

"I started putting my own songs in and my songs didn't sound like jazz songs," she said. "They sounded like country songs."

That was her Texas upbringing talking. Jones said label executives, thinking they had signed a jazz artist, were taken aback by her change in direction. Lundvall said it was the production of her first recordings, not the music itself, that he objected to.

While jazz purists might debate her change in direction, most listeners haven't seemed to

RAVI/ p. D4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Bob Dylan in talks for new film role

LOS ANGELES-Music legend Bob Dylan, buoyed by a resurgence in his career, is in talks to return tot he big screen for what would be his first major film role in 15 years, Daily Variety reported recently.

Feature drama

The movie, a feature drama from production and financing house Intermedia Films, would star 60-year-old Dylan in the role of Jack Fate, a wandering troubadour who is brought out of prison by his former manager for one last concert, Variety said.

Intermedia has been developing the picture, tentatively titled "Masked and Anonymous," for about a year with Larry Charles, who was an executive producer of the long-running NBC sitcom "Mad About You," the entertainment trade paper said.

The film will incorporate some Dylan music but it was unclear whether Dylan will write any new material for the movie, Variety reported.

Charles will make his feature directorial debut with the film. He most recently directed the HBO comedy series "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and was a supervising producer on the NBC smash hit "Seinfeld."

DYLAN. First major movie outing in 15 years.

Ravi Shankar's . . .

From p. D3

mind.

Organic evolution

"It was really natural," Jones said, "a really sort of organic evolution, and that's what makes the record good. I think my record is pretty innocent because I know the process we went through to make it . . . It was not calculated at all, because I had no idea what I was doing."

She's still comfortable with Blue Note because it insulates her from a pop music world she wants no part of.

"You don't ever have to sell a million records to be successful in their book," she said. "Sell 50,000 and you can make another record. They allowed me to have a nice, mellow record that doesn't sound like a pop record."

Jones' initial success has brought some unwanted attention to her family background. Her father is the Indian musician Ravi Shankar.

Jones spent 10 years having no contact with Shankar, but the two have made peace. Shankar has even recently seen his daughter perform.

"We sort of reconnected before all this happened," she said. "Truth be told, I wouldn't have wanted him to come see me in a little bar where everyone was talking. I'm over everything, I don't resent him. I just don't want him to be the focus of all my press."

Some of the articles about her work—prominent pieces in Time magazine, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, for a start—have been more unnerving.

She's happy for the positive attention, but feels it comes with a certain pressure.

"I'm really young," the 23-year-old singer said. "It's my first time out. I was hoping my first time out, people would hear it, but they wouldn't be watching me. I can make a mistake, and I'll probably make many. It's just unnerving." *AP*

Tarantino to executive-produce new Marvel film

NEW YORK--As "Spider-Man" continues to hit it big in movie theaters, filmmaker Quentin Tarantino plans to bring another comic book adaptation to the silver screen.

Tarantino will serve as executive producer of a film based on the Marvel comic series, "Mort: the Dead Teenager," Tarantino's publicist Bumble Ward said on Friday. Madonna's Maverick Films will co-produce the movie.

Departure

In a departure from other Marvel comics, the movie's main character, Mort, is not a superhero, but a teenager who is beheaded in a train accident at the start of the film.

Mort descends in the Netherworld and meets Teen Death, the son of the Grim Reaper, and "the two of them get into all sorts of trouble," said Zachary Feurer, a producer at Maverick Films.

"Mort convinces Teen Death to return to high school with him so he can win back the girl of his dreams, even though he's dead."

"The film is a completely unique look at adolescence as seen through the eyes of a fantasy. It speaks to teen-agers everywhere," Feurer said. "It's a teen comedy with a `Beetlejuice' sensibility."

Lead roles

Actress Dominique Swain, who starred in "Lolita," and Elijah Wood, who recently appeared as the young hobbit Frodo in "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," are being considered for the lead roles, Feurer said.

Director Ang Lee is currently working on "The Hulk" a film based on the Marvel comic, starring Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Connelly and Eric Bana from "Black Hawk Down."

"The Hulk" started filming near San Francisco in April and is expected to be released in June 2003. *Reuters*

The Library celebrates 17th anniversary

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE LIBRARY, one of the more popular entertainment joints in Malate, is celebrating its 17th anniversary from June 17 to 23. The venue isn't just one of those sing-along bars with female impersonators as hosts and singers, it's a place for comedy shows and stand-up comics. Library "alumni" include the likes of Ai Ai de las Alas, Allan K, Arnell Ignacio and Philip Lazaro. The creative force behind this place is writer-director Andrew de Real.

Noranians vs Vilmanians

One of his favorites is "Si Nura at si Velma," a comedy about Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos. The idea sprang from the fact that, at The Library, there are two factions—the Noranians and the Vilmanian (Andrew's a Noranian), and one night the two groups were arguing about who was the better performer. Andrew thought it would be a good idea for a show. Allan K and Leonard Obal, Library "graduates," starred in the show, which has been staged more than 50 times.

ALLAN K and Arnell Ignacio are Library "alumni."

DE REAL. Creative force.

Interestingly enough, "Si Nura at si Velma" will not be one of the shows featured in the week-long celebration of the Library's anniversary. Instead, Andrew decided to open the celebration on June 17 with a semi-serious straight play titled "Room 69." The next day, Philip Lazaro satirizes Ben Stiller's "Zoolander" with his own version, "Philliplander." On June 19, Rey Kilay, Poca and Martin Mijares star in "Power of Three."

June 20 is alumni homecoming day with Allan K featured in "Nose Attack," where he will reprise some of his more popular acts. The junior entertainers perform on June 21 and 22. The week-long celebration ends on June 23 with the handing out of the Golden Book Award to the "Entertainer of the Year."

"Room 69" is a semi-autobiographical play written by Andrew who also directs the play and stars in it. The play is basically about gay relationships, growing up gay, and dealing with being gay. Andrew wrote it in 1994, and decided that now was a good time to stage it—*"Tanggap na ang gay relationships ngayon, e."*

So what's the central problem of gay relationships? "Stability. *Kahit naman sa* straight relationships, *ganun, e. Mas malakas lang yung* temptation *sa* gay relationships. *Huwag kang umasa na walang mag-aabot sa 'yo ng* calling card *sa* bar. But I have friends who have gone 15, 20 years . . ."

What's the secret? *"Kailangan* open *kayo sa isa't-isa, walang sikreto, walang taguan para mag-*work *talaga yung relasyon. Compared to America, mas* okay *pa yung mga* gay to gay relationships *dito. Mas* stable."

When Andrew started out in the business, Philippine society was not yet open to gay relationships. *"Hindi pa kami makapag-*out. *Yung time kasi namin, ang tingin nila pag* gay performer, *parang* parlor humor *lang. They looked down on it pa."*

Andrew's dream

"Ang dream *ko talaga, makagawa ng* comedy show *na andun lahat ng* best stand-up comedians *sa* Philippines. The best comedians, like Joey de Leon, Tessie Tomas, Nanette Inventor, Mitch Valdes . .."

Andrew also has his own talent agency, with more than 60 talents—mostly stand-up comics—and he supplies different sing-along and videoke bars with talented hosts. He gives them workshops on how to act on stage, how to host, how to deliver a punchline, and how to write a script.

Call 522-2284.

Music labels . . .

From p. D5

reject this bill," said Glen Barros, head of Concord Records, an independent record company based in Northern California.

Coalition

"We are a coalition of small and large businesses and individuals who are committed to keeping jobs and opportunity in California and supporting California's economy."

"The recording industry directly supports more than 27,000 California jobs, including 40 in my own company, and tens of thousands more rely on our business," he said.

Ability

Barros and others in the group said if this bill passes and is signed by Gov. Gray Davis, a record company's ability to discover, represent and promote new talent would be reduced.

Furthermore, the opponents charged that the bill will benefit only a handful of superstar artists and will take away countless opportunities for artists to receive the promotion they need to be given the attention they deserve.

Small record label

Miles Copeland, chairman of Ark-21 Records, a small record label, noted that the industry is already reeling form a variety of external causes, such as the digital revolution and online film swapping.

"Significant harm could be caused to the entire music business because of the very visible complaining by a few successful recording artist in our own family," Copeland said.

"If the mega stars succeed with this effort, I feel strongly that it would be at the expense of those artists who have not made it yet," he said. *Reuters*

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'Ya-Ya Sisterhood' weighed down by endless chatter

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—They talk, they laugh, they gripe and grouse, they accuse, they apologize, they wisecrack and mix up a fresh batch of Bloody Marys. Then they talk some more. A lot more.

Chummy refrain

The chummy refrain of the women of "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" is those two nonsense syllables, "ya-ya," but a more suitable substitute might be "yadda, yadda, yadda."

They go on endlessly, often about nothing of interest to anyone outside their own circle and often in such affected, stagy manner that it cheapens the impact of the film's more subtle and sincere moments.

As an emotionally maimed playwright coming to terms with her nutty mother, Sandra Bullock stands out with the one consistently authentic performance among an ensemble of exceptional actresses. Ashley Judd runs a decent second as the young incarnation of the mother, played in old age by Ellen Burstyn.

Unfortunately, the contemporary "Ya-Ya Sisterhood"—Burstyn, Maggie Smith, Fionnula Flanagan and Shirley Knight—tend toward caricatures of quirky, scrappy, boozy Southern dames, their banter sometimes amusing, more frequently grating.

Directorial debut

The movie marks the directorial debut of Callie Khouri, whose screenwriting credits include her Oscar-winning script for "Thelma & Louise." Khouri wrote the screenplay herself from Rebecca Wells' novels "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" and "Little Altars Everywhere."

As a writer, Khouri knows how to craft believably contentious women and fire off witty one-liners. She's far less handy at translating the characters and dialogue to the screen, generally miring her elderly foursome in comic or melodramatic histrionics.

The film opens with a well-staged introduction to the origin of the "Ya-Ya Sisterhood," four young girls in the 1930s who swear a blood oath of lifelong devotion to one another.

"Many, many moons later," a mother-daughter rift develops as New York City playwright Sidda Lee Walker (Bullock) lets slip some loose words about her unhappy childhood in Louisiana during a Time magazine interview.

Her mother, Vivi (Burstyn), founder of the Ya-Yas, has a conniption when the magazine hits the stands. She and Sidda embark on comic acts of postal exorcism, Vivi sending Sidda family photos with her daughter cut out of them, Sidda returning the favor by mailing Mom an invitation to her upcoming wedding with the time and place blacked out.

Estrangement

It seems like the sort of estrangement that would blow over in a week or two. But Vivi's Ya-Ya buddies—Caro (Smith), Teensy (Flanagan) and Necie (Knight)—intervene, abducting Sidda and hauling her back home to indoctrinate her on the hard knocks that made Vivi such a tempestuous, occasionally unfit mother.

What follows is a stream of flashbacks to the Ya-Yas' girlhoods, and the romantic tragedy and general life disheartenment experienced by young Vivi (Judd).

The movie plays out predictably, with mawkish sentiment, though there are some truly touching, understated moments, notably between Sidda and her long-suffering father (James Garner, who manages great warmth and humor in a largely stoic role).

"Daddy, did you get loved enough?" Sidda asks her father, who had never been central to Vivi's affections.

"What's enough?" he resignedly responds. "My question is, did you?"

Bullock also shares a sparkling bond with Angus MacFayden, who is delightful as Sidda's stalwart fiance.

Off-screen, the film's real star is music producer T Bone Burnett, who follows up his brilliant soundtrack to "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" with a fresh, far-reaching collection of songs beautifully integrated into the story. Among the highlights: new tunes by Bob Dylan and Lauryn Hill; Macy Gray's rendition of Billie Holiday's first-ever recording, "Your Mother's Son-in-Law;" and a new arrangement of Richard and Linda Thompson's "Dimming of the Day."

"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," a Warner Bros. release, runs 116 minutes. Two stars out of four. *AP*

"DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD." From left, Ellen Burstyn, Maggie Smith, Fionnula Flanagan, Sandra Bullock and Shirley Knight.

Music labels, others band together against artists

By Sue Zeidler

LOS ANGELES-As a pop star protest against "indentured servitude" by penny-pinching record companies grew to near-deafening decibel levels recently, the music industry roared back.

Changes

Led by Don Henley and Sheryl Crow, the Recording Artists Coalition has been demanding changes to a California law that ties musicians longer to contracts than in other industries.

Their efforts reached a crescendo with four Los Angeles protest concerts featuring such stars as the Eagles, Billy Joel, Stevie Nicks, Crow, No Doubt, The Offspring, The Dixie Chicks, Trisha Yearwood, Beck, and Eddie Vedder.

But music labels, production studios, CD manufacturers, merchandisers and graphic artists sounded a loud sour note to the artists' demands as they launched an alliance of their own to fight any changes in the law.

The recording artists are behind a bill currently before the California state legislature to repeal an amendment won by the music industry in 1987 that allows record labels to keep artists tied to contracts longer than talent in other sectors.

Existing contracts

The new California Music Coalition said the artists want the right to walk away from their existing contracts and that this will ultimately hurt the industry and the state economy.

"We have joined together today to urge the Legislature to

MUSIC / p.D4

Director hopes to keep hectic HK still for seven hours

By Carrie Lee

HONG KONG--Getting anyone in hectic Hong Kong to stay still is a feat at the best of times, but Taiwan's top playwright is confident his biggest work will keep audiences in the territory glued to their seats for seven hours.

Trial run

Despite its length, a trial run of "A Dream Like a Dream" caused a sensation two years ago in Taiwan when it was performed by students of the island's leading drama school.

And writer Stanley Lai, who is also one of Taiwan's top stage directors, is confident it will play to an appreciative house in bustling, no-nonsense Hong Kong. Twelve performances, each spread over two sessions, are scheduled in the territory.

"The response was very strong in Taipei," Lai told Reuters in a recent interview.

"All the viewers whom we talked to liked it so much that they told us they wanted it to be even longer."

Set in Greater China and France, the drama follows a group of Chinese through the colorful 1930s to the present, tracing their lives, loves and even deaths and reincarnations.

Revolving chairs

Audience members are seated on revolving chairs in the middle of the theater, with the play unfolding all around them, giving them a constantly changing perspective of the same characters and events.

"The audience feel as if they were in the story and related to its characters," Lai said.

Certain parts of the play have been staged in the United States by students at the University of California at Berkeley, and in Beijing by students at Central Drama Academy, China's top drama school, Lai said, adding they were well received.

The Hong Kong show will be the first time the play has been performed for the public by a professional cast, Lai said.

"It will be the longest play ever staged in Hong Kong," said Fredric Mao, head and artistic director of the Hong Kong Repertory Theater, which will be presenting the show.

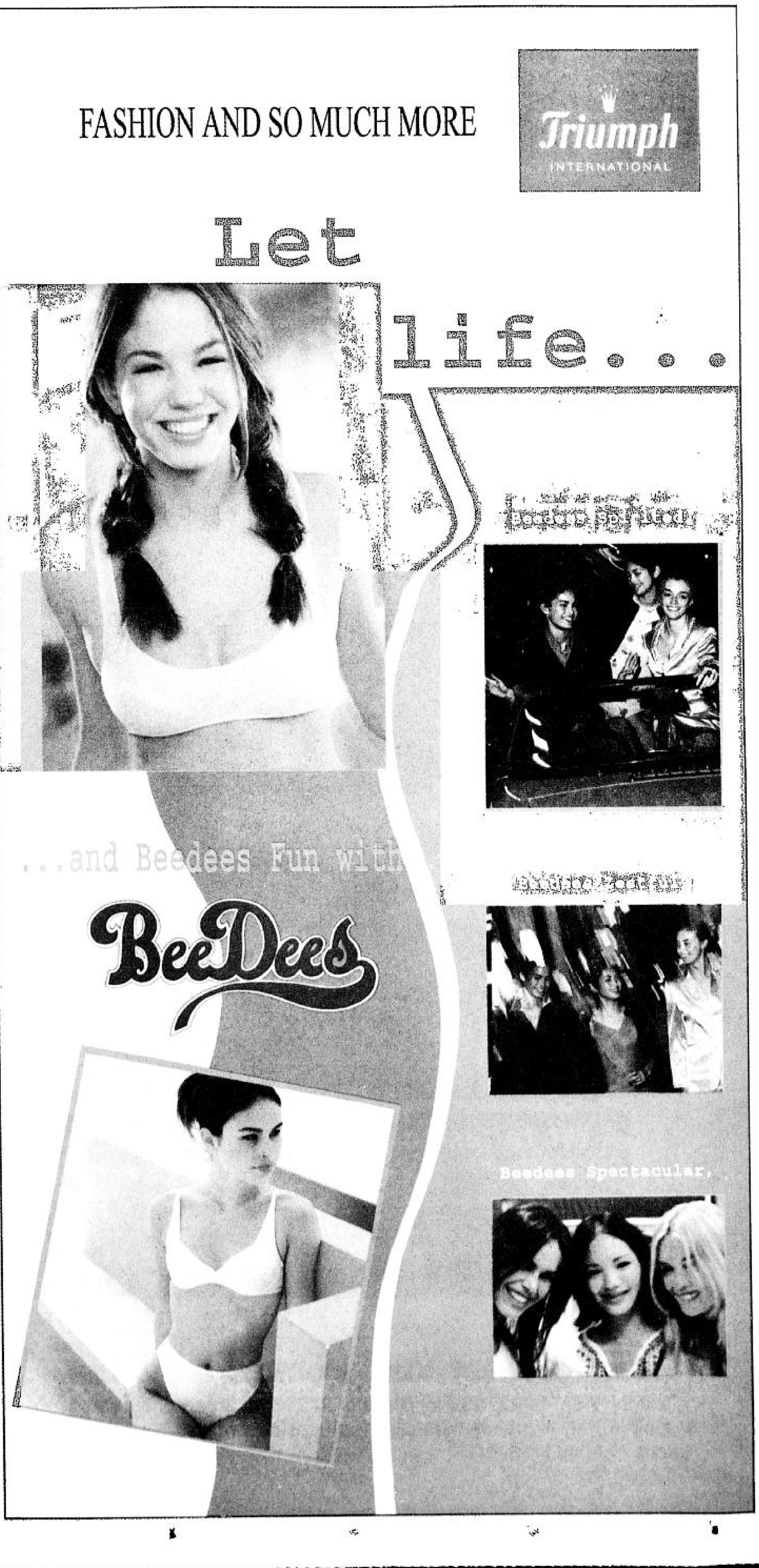
Dying patient

It begins with a doctor asking a dying patient to tell him the story of his life for want of better ways to relieve his pain.

He goes on to relate tales of a number of protagonists, including a beautiful prostitute in Shanghai in the 1930s. Veteran Hong Kong actress Liza Wang, a household name in Chinese communities all over the world, plays the role of the woman in middle age.

"The characters are interrelated and interwoven in different time and spaces," Lai said.

"The message is that all people in this world are interrelated. I hope the viewers will come out with more concern for other people and the world," Lai said. *Reuters*



Russian blockbuster movies boost popularity of Chechnya war

Neither film gives the enemy a human face

By Angela Charlton

MOSCOW—With the Kremlin's war in Chechnya trudging through its third year and losing backers with every new body bag, Russia's version of Hollywood has come to the rescue.

Two blockbuster films dominating Russian theaters this spring, "Voina" ("War") and "Zvezda" ("Star"), make fighting for Mother Russia look more honorable than ever, even as the blood oozes and viewers' eardrums are shattered by ordnance.

Expert cinematography

Both films have wowed audiences with expert cinematography that stands out from the low-budget crime dramas typical of Russia's post-Soviet film scene.

"War" takes place in today's Chechnya; "Star" returns to World War II as the Soviet Army began gaining ground against Nazi forces.

Neither film gives the enemy a human face, and each unabashedly taps Russian patriotism. The Kremlin, criticized in the West for the Chechnya war and eager to keep the Russian public on its side, couldn't have scripted them better.

"It's a convenient time for such films," said Alexei Malashenko, an analyst on the Caucasus region at the Moscow Carnegie Center. "They will not resolve the Chechen problem, but they give the impression that it is resolvable."

Russia's Sept. 11 occurred in 1999, when apartment buildings in three Russian cities were razed in bombings that killed at least 300 people. Within weeks, the country was at war—for a second time—in troubled, rugged Chechnya.

While a former security agent has blamed his ex-colleagues for the bombings—as a way to provoke a war—most Russians still suspect the Chechen rebels who in their drive for independence have terrorized the nation for years with kidnappings and small-scale bombings.

One such kidnapping shapes "War," its victims a British theater actor, his fiancee and two Russian servicemen.

One hostage is played by young Russian heartthrob Sergei Bodrov Jr. in an echo of his role as a hostage in Chechnya in the 1996 "Prisoner of the Mountains," nominated for an Oscar for best foreign film.

In that poignant production, both Russians and Chechens were portrayed as heroic and flawed, and the real villain was war itself.

That suited public opinion then since the last Chechnya war was unpopular from beginning to end, which came in a humiliating Russian withdrawal in 1996.

Alexei Balabanov, director and creator of "War," said he was "sickened by the softness" of "Prisoner of the Mountains."

"I wanted to make a film about how things really are, not a dream of how they should be," he said. "They adored that film in the West because it was politically correct. They deride my film in the West because it isn't."

Popular

The current Chechnya war was extremely popular at first, and remains more popular than the last one. But Balabanov's film hit Russian theaters as polls show support sagging amid rebel raids and mines that kill and maim Russian conscripts daily.

Balabanov's chief inspiration for "War" was a searing image from Russian news broadcasts in 1998: the severed heads of four foreign telephone workers—three Britons and a New Zealander—who were executed by Chechen guerrillas.

"War" opens with a Chechen gang beheading a Russian soldier before other hostages. The traumatized British hostage (Ian Kelly) is then sent home to collect 4 million pounds in ransom for his fiancee. He fails, and then he and fellow ex-hostage Vanya (Alexei Chadov) revisit Chechnya in a blaze of disorganized, brutal revenge.

But Kelly's character turns out to be dangerously naive about war and he ultimately betrays Vanya to achieve his own ends.

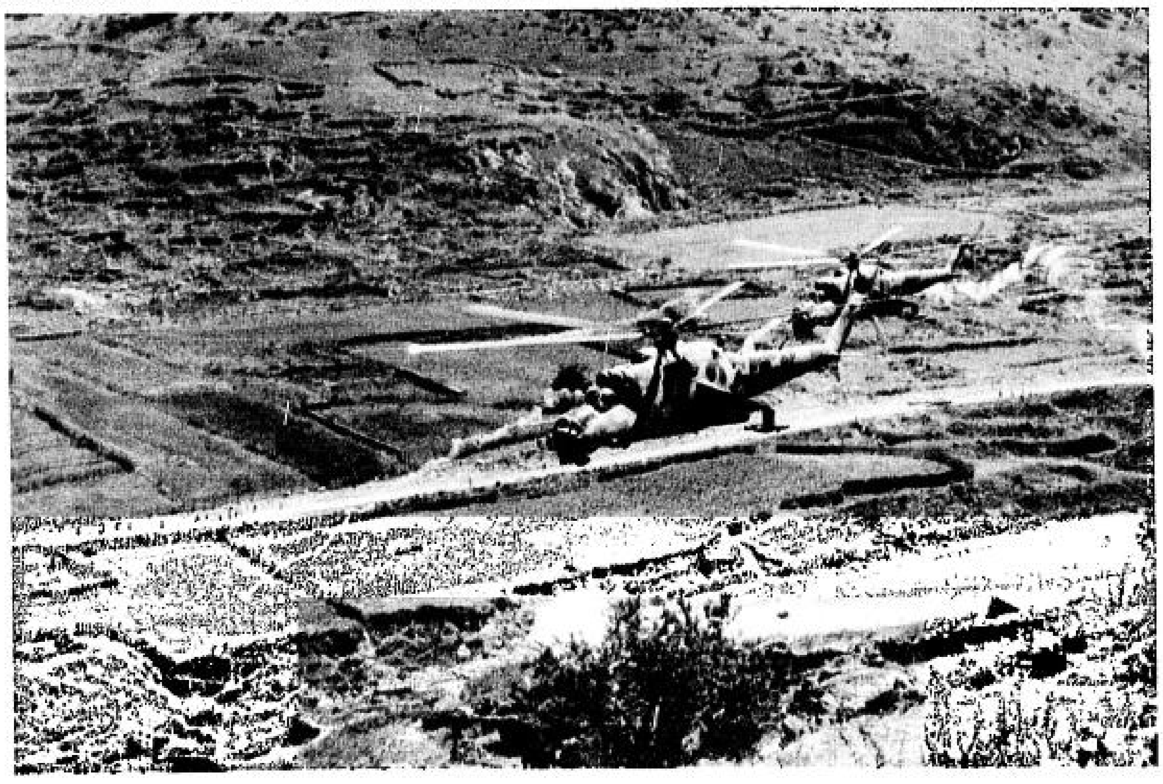
Balabanov says the message is clear: "In the West people don't understand what war is anymore."

Images

The other popular film, "Star," makes no mention of today's war, but its fresh-faced, poorly equipped soldiers conjure images of their counterparts in Chechnya. A voice-over follows the film's tragic finale reminding viewers that the heroes' valor led to the Nazi defeat—suggesting a similar glory awaits those fighting in Chechnya.

"The only disturbing thing (about 'Star') is that it demonstrates that the only idea uniting heroes of the screen and viewers, allowing us to feel we are one people, is once again: war," the daily Izvestia wrote in a front-page review.

The Chechnya war also has attracted Hollywood. In "Proof of Life," Russell Crowe orchestrates a hostage release in Chechnya, and two upcoming films are set in the province—the screen version of Tom Clancy's "The Sum of All Fears" includes a biological weapons attack there and Harrison Ford will play American aid worker Fred Cuny who disappeared in Chechnya in 1995 under mysterious circumstances. *AP*



"VOINA" ("War") and "Zvezda" ("Star"), make fighting for Mother Russia look more honorable than ever, even while oozing blood and shattering the eardrums with ordnance. AP

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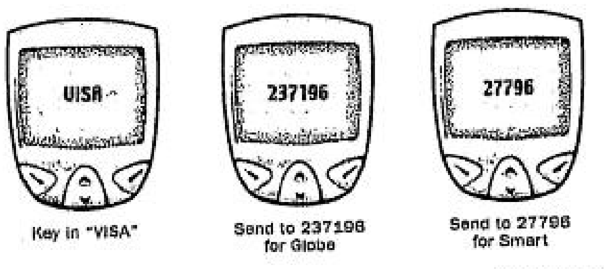

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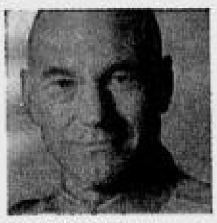
TNT takes a shot at 'King Lear' with 'King of Texas'

By Doug Young


STEWART. Portrays a proud but cold-hearted land holder.

HOLLY. Cast as one of the King's three daughters.

In keeping with the original play, Lear bequeaths his huge land holdings to two of his three daughters, Susannah, played by Harden, and Rebecca, played by Holly, who comply with their father's request to describe how much they love him

LOS ANGELES—King Lear in Texas?

It may sound like a strange fit, but cable television's TNT has mixed some Lone Star gun fight into the classic Shakespearean tragedy and unveils the results on Sunday with the premiere of its star-studded original movie "King of Texas."

Pet project

The film is the pet project of British actor Patrick Stewart, better know on the Texan side of the Atlantic for his starring role in the 1987-94 TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Other cast members include Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden, Lauren Holly and Roy Scheider, in an adaptation that remains faithful to "Lear" with a few variations.

Set in 19th century Texas shortly after the Battle of the Alamo, the film tells the story of John Lear, played by Stewart, a proud but cold-hearted landholder in an era when bandits roam the landscape and tensions between Anglos and Mexicans run high.

In keeping with the original play, Lear bequeaths his huge land holdings to two of his three daughters, Susannah, played by Harden, and Rebecca, played by Holly, who comply with their father's request to describe how much they love him.

Truly loyal

A third daughter, Claudia, played by Julie Cox, who is truly loyal to her father, refuses to express her love in words and is disowned and left landless.

A tale of treachery and deceit follows, as Susannah and Rebecca turn on their father while Claudia goes into exile at the ranch of a loyal Mexican friend and is eventually rediscovered by her distraught and landless father.

Harden, who won an Oscar for her role as Lee Krasner in the 2000 film "Pollock," said she relished the chance to play one of the evil daughters in "King of Texas." Harden, 42, said her age also precluded her from playing the youthful and wide-eyed Claudia.

"They always approached me about Susannah. She's the one I wanted to play," said Harden, speaking in a phone interview from New York.

"The older daughters are more interesting because the conflict is more interesting. It's the conflict of an initial seeming loyalty to the father that erupts into the same kind of lust and land hunger he taught them." Harden said the backstabbing, power-hungry character she played was very unlike her own personality.

Efforts

"You just try to substitute," she said, describing her efforts to put herself in Susannah's shoes. "I can think of many a time I've smashed a cockroach within an inch of its life, and I think that's it. You have to think this man is a cockroach, and that's what you use." Harden, who was drawn to the project by Stewart's participation, said that at its core, "Texas" was about a topic as old as history: the lust for power. Accordingly, she said, any audience would relate to the film.

"In this case, power became a substitute for love," she said. "Clearly Patrick Stewart's character, and he played it really well because he didn't pander to the need to be liked, wasn't the most affectionate man. He was stingy with his affection and he was stingy with his land." *Reuters*

'Insomnia' . . .

From p. D1

heartless killer.

From a simple tale of murder in an Alaskan town in summer, when the sun never sets, Nolan crafts an intricate house of cards that's the sort of film to keep you up an hour past bedtime pondering the internal machinations of both good guys and bad guys.

Adapted from a 1997 Norwegian film starring Stellan Skarsgard, "Insomnia" is dark and grim, with a desolate sense of place and a melancholy air reminiscent of the moody character studies of the 1970s. "Insomnia" would fit snugly into a triple-bill alongside Francis Ford Coppola's "The Conversation" and Pacino's "Dog Day Afternoon."

Few insights

Nolan has greatly improved on the fitfully engaging original, a spare, cloistered film that was mostly surfaces with few insights into the characters' troubled interiors.

The remake is expansive, the Alaska settings (mostly shot in British Columbia) providing a spooky backdrop whose harsh grandeur dwarfs the characters, illuminating the smallness, the baseness of their motivations and actions. *AP*

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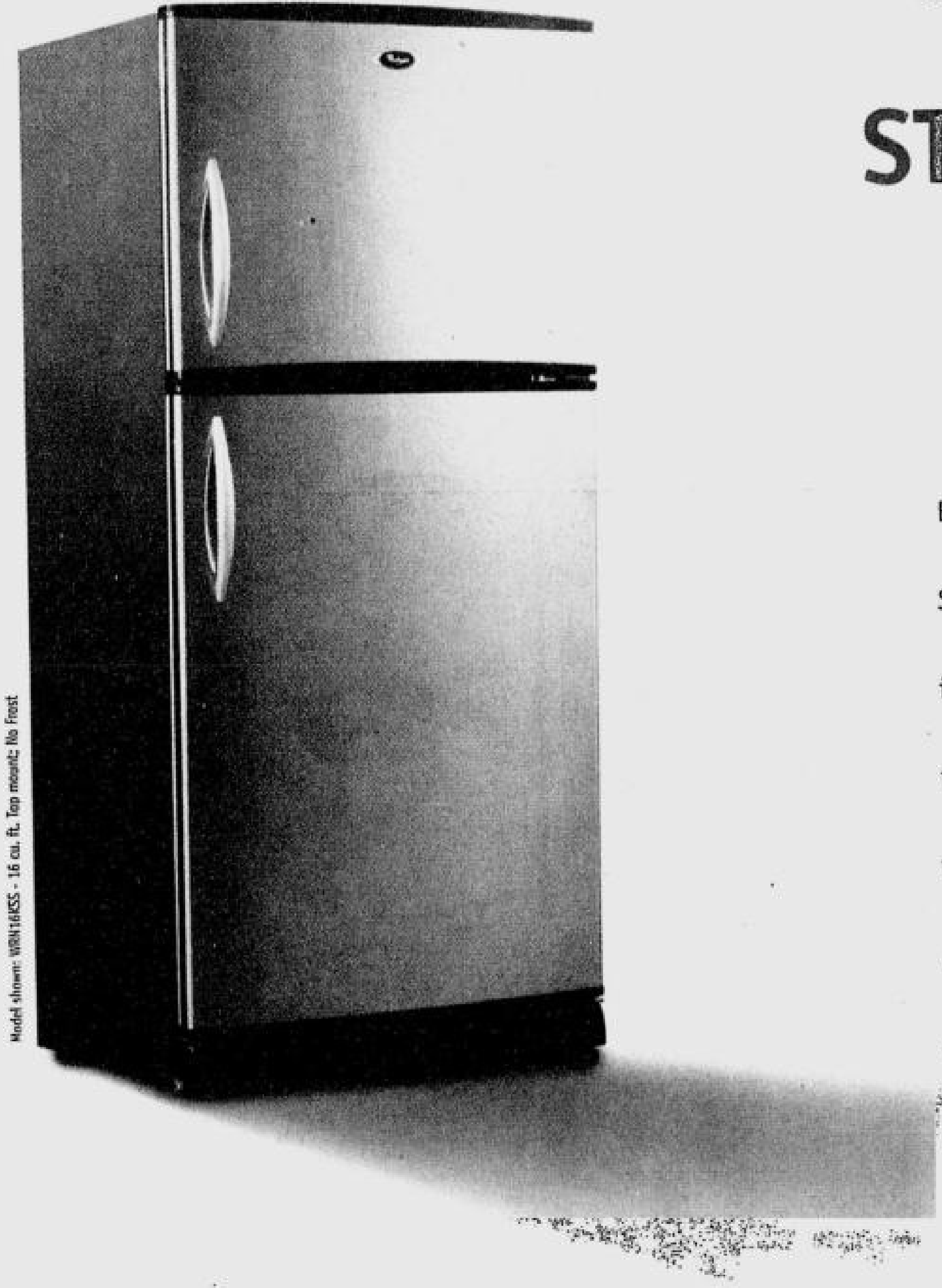

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SINATRA. From teen idol to introspective balladeer.

Sinatra songs in digital CD mode

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Four years after his death, Frank Sinatra fans can now hear such classics as "My Kind of Town," "The Lady Is a Tramp" and "Night and Day" the way Ol' Blue Eyes sang them in the movies.

Warner Music Group's Reprise and Turner Classic Movies Music labels have jointly released a six-CD boxed set, titled "Sinatra in Hollywood (1940-1964)," a collection of the entertainer's performances from his big-screen career.

Sound archives

Most of the material contained in the 160 tracks, culled from the sound archives of several major film studios and digitally remastered, has never been released before on disc.

Many of Sinatra's greatest hits, including "A Lovely Way to Spend An Evening," "The House I Live In," "One For My Baby" and "My Kind of Town (Chicago Is)," originated in his movies.

But the versions previously issued on vinyl and most familiar to fans were rerecordings that differ from the film performances, according to producer Charles Granata, author of the book "Sessions with Sinatra."

"As a result, you'll hear fresh, spontaneous versions of the Sinatra hits you remember hearing him sing on-screen during his amazing film career," Granata wrote in introductory notes released in conjunction with the boxed set.

Collection

The collection offers the first true stereo mixes of many of Sinatra's movie performances. In some cases, they are more complete than the ones on film.

In the 1957 film "Pal Joey," for example, Sinatra sang "The Lady Is a Tramp" in a nightclub, with dialogue and background noise recorded over his performance. But as restored for the boxed set, it's straight Sinatra, with no distractions.

SINATRA/ p. E2

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Sen. Tito Sotto talks about the Film Development Council law

By Edmund L. Sicam

SENATOR Tito Sotto calls the recently-signed law creating the Film Development Council a "door opener" for the motion picture industry. Sen. Sotto was head of the committee that saw the bill to fruition in the Senate.

"For a long time, the government has neglected the film sector," he told us during a visit to his office. "It is the most taxed film industry in the world. Now with the FDC, producers will be able to get tax relief if their films are rated A or B."

Rebates

Under the new law, a film rated A gets a 100 percent rebate on amusement taxes collected by cities in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized and independent component cities in the Philippines. Films rated B get a 65 percent rebate while the remaining 35 percent will go to the Council for its operating expenses.

Amusement taxes that would ordinarily go to the cities and municipalities will be remitted to the Council, which shall reward the producers within 15 days after receipt of the funds. This setup accelerates the granting of the incentives since the taxes are not remitted to City Hall but directly to the FDC, thus avoiding the red tape one encounters in government offices.

Theaters that do not remit such funds can be fined and face closure. Those who do not remit the taxes during the prescribed will pay a surcharge of 5 percent for each month of delinquency.

The Council will be composed of 10 persons with the following as ex-officio members: secretaries of trade and industry and education, the chairperson of the Film Academy, the president of the CCP, the commissioner of the NCCA cinema committee, the president of the league of city mayors and the chairman of the MMDA. The three regular members will be made up of one representative each from a legally-constituted filmmakers' association, the theater owners' association and the academe.

Rating the movies will be the task of a 30-member Cinema Evaluation Board, 20 of whom shall come from the industry and the other 10 from the arts, academe, business and other sectors. The Board will evaluate the films primarily on point of direction, screenplay, cinematography, editing, production design, music scoring, sound and acting.

Sen. Sotto calls the FDC law a "door opener" because it will eventually lead to other incentives for filmmakers. The new law only applies to rated films. Eventually, the senator hopes the tax rate for all films will also be reduced in the future.

A sector led by producer Armida Siguion-Reyna feels betrayed because the law does not contain the censorship-free provision in the house version. Armida's group was fighting for films rated A or B not to pass MTRCB review as a further incentive to the filmmaker who might feel restrained by the censors.

SOTTO. Head of the committee that finally saw the bill to fruition in the Senate, after years of trying.

FROM left, Atty. Myra Villarica and Atty. Hans Bulos of Senator Vicente Sotto's office, FDFPI President Laurice Guillen-Feleo, Congresswoman Imee Marcos, principal author of House Bill No. 4644, Senator Vicente Sotto III, principal author of Senate Bill No. 2049, and IFFCOM Chairman Marichu P. Maceda.

Controversial provision

Director Joel Lamangan bewails the fact that the industry did not put up a fight to retain the controversial provision. The group also complained that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo interfered in the legislative process by letting it be known that she would not sign the house version of the bill.

kern -0.2mmSen. Sotto denied the accusation saying that he got his marching orders from the Senate. He is also saddened about being branded "*mukhang pera*". "*Nalulungkot akong marinig iyan.* They've been saying that this is the most severely-taxed industry. *Ngayong may* incentives *na, biglang mukhang pera. E, di i*-dump *na lang natin yung* law and work on the MTRCB bill."

In previous sessions, the movie bill encountered rough sailing because of the controversial provision. Sen. Sotto recalled that Senators Neptali Gonzales, Kit Tatad and Joey Lina always presented serious objections.

We asked him if abolishing censorship would lead to better films. He said that there are many quality movies with minimal sex and violence, so removing censorship does not necessarily assure audiences of good films.

Sen. Sotto feels that film incentives and movie censorship are two separate issues. Now that the incentives have been given, those who are vocal against censorship should work to abolish PD 1986, which created the MTRCB.

Sinatra songs in digital CD mode

From p. E1

According to co-producer Didier Deutsch, the project had been in the works for at least a year before Sinatra's May 1998 death. The last two years were spent transferring recordings from aging nitrate or magnetic film, playback discs, or analog tapes, then restoring and remastering them.

In addition to Sinatra's cinematic performances, the set includes promos, interviews and his acceptance speech for his Academy Award as best supporting actor in 1953's "From Here to Eternity."

As a whole, the anthology traces Sinatra's development as a performer during a quarter-century of his career, from teen idol to swinging hipster to introspective balladeer.

First movie song

Not only does the set include Sinatra's first movie song, "I'll Never Smile Again" from his uncredited feature film debut with the Tommy Dorsey band in 1940's "Las Vegas Nights," it also resurrects a Frank Loesser number called "Dolores" that was cut from the movie.

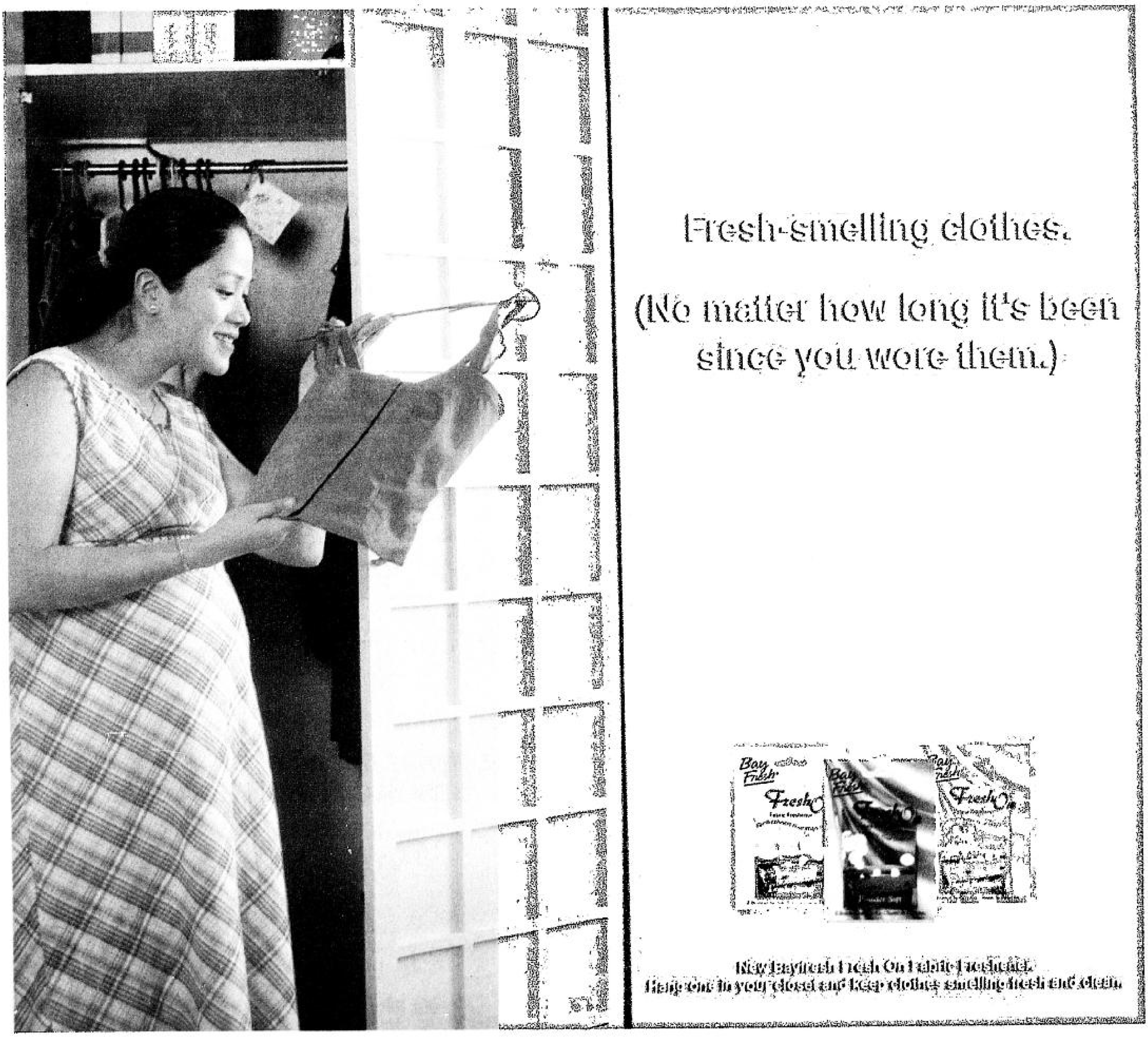
At the other end of his career are six tracks from the 1964 Rat Pack film "Robin And the 7 Hoods," including "My Kind of Town." Another highlight is "New York, New York" (it's a hell of a town), from the 1949 musical "On the Town" about three sailors on leave in the Big Apple. A bigger Sinatra hit of the same title, the one that begins, "Start spreading the news," was not performed by him in a movie and does not appear on the CD set.

Other rare outtakes are nine songs Sinatra recorded for a never-finished 1954 animated version of "Finian's Rainbow," including duets with Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

Seven Hollywood studios

Overall, the collection encompasses music the Chairman of the Board recorded for seven Hollywood studios—MGM, RKO, Warner Bros., Paramount, Columbia, Universal, Goldwyn and United Artists.

The lone holdout in agreeing to license tracks for the set was 20th Century Fox. As a result, producers failed to get Sinatra's unreleased version of "If I Love You" from the 1955 musical "Carousel," which Sinatra quit before filming began, or his original 1954 "Three Coins in the Fountain." Warner Music and Turner Classic are part of AOL Time Warner Inc. *Reuters*



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Claudine Barretto, after the tempest

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER her stressful experience earlier this year, Claudine has grown psychologically older, and hopefully wiser. Wryly, she describes herself now as "22 going on 45."

TV soap

Still, life goes on, and her career, in fact, is going quite swimmingly, what with her hit TV soap and the new movie she's currently shooting with Aga Muhlach.

The film particularly excites her because it's been her longtime dream to make a movie with Aga, the screen partner of choice of most bankable leading ladies these days. Since she turned 16, they had already been talking about co-starring in a film.

The still-untitled movie is more than just the usual romantic-comedy-drama production. Aside from the regulation *"kilig"* factor, it touches on Filipino traits, tradition and psychology, plus food and sensuousness.

New starrer

Claudine's role in the movie is no longer the usual teenybopper cutie and is definitely young-adult, a sign of her having come of age as a performer. Thus, her new starrer is romantic *and* sensual, and Claudine is excited about this change, because she wants to not just grow, but grow up as an actress.

She feels that this new development in her career comes at the right time, because audiences today want to see stars playing new characters, and not settle into a comfortable rut. Even her TV soap is constantly trying to offer something new, and viewers have been responding positively, making it the hottest tearjerker on TV these days.

That's why, even as TV shows are being terminated all over the place, Claudine's "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" will go on—and on.

Other performing options

The upswing in Claudine's TV and film careers is inhibiting her from pursuing other performing options, like going into recording. Perhaps next year?

BARRETTO. "22 going on 45."

To hone her ability as a performer, Claudine watches a lot of movies and analyzes how actors come up with superior performances. She is particularly challenged by the roles essayed by Meryl Streep, but admits that they're exceedingly taxing and would require total concentration, which her currently hectic schedule can't allow.

Her only rest day is Wednesday, which she spends at the beauty parlor, playing badminton, hanging out with her *pamangkin*, and reading books, especially inspirational tomes.

Long vacation

She yearns to go on a long vacation, because it's been years since she's taken a break from her gruelling show biz schedule.

"For six years," she sighs, "I've been doing one drama after another on TV and in the movies. It can get so that you don't know who you are anymore. So, you really need to go on vacation. Otherwise, the next step could be therapy!"

She admits that she's lost a lot of weight due to her workload and recent ordeal, and shares that her movie studio, Star Cinema, has put her on a no-nonsense diet to gain weight as fast as possible, so she will look her best on screen.

What's her diet like? How no-nonsense can you get?: "One pint of ice cream and one whole chicken everyday!" With a diet like that, she should look positively healthy— and stuffed—in no time at all!

Summing up?: I'm better, but I can't say I'm OK already. *Sana*, I could recover faster."

Feelings

How does she want people to regard her? *"Na tao din ako. Kasi* sometimes, when you're an *artista*, some people forget you have feelings, and step on you.

"They should realize that it can be hard to be a star, and it's lonely."

She ends by sharing more details about her new film with Aga: "It's visually different. My role is particularly challenging because it requires me to be both sensual and natural. My approach here is more focused on nuance and technique, my voice is different, and I sport a tanned look.

"Also, in this film, I do my first love scene with Aga!"

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> Her new film excites her because it's been her longtime dream to make a movie with Aga Muhlach, the screen partner of choice of most bankable leading ladies these days

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Arab world's 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' adds politics to formula

By Nadia Abou El-Magd

CAIRO, Egypt—The Arab world's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" is popular, and to keep audiences tuning in, the show has added another ingredient to the familiar mix: politics.

And one of host George Kordahi's catch phrases?

"Greetings to our steadfast people in Palestine."

Solidarity

Arabs divided by political rivalries and even language—national Arabic dialects can differ greatly—are united by a sense of solidarity with Palestinians in their confrontation with Israel.

Arab politicians have exploited the Palestinian cause; playwrights and musicians have written about it. Now a game show has ridden pro-Palestinian sentiment to become one of the most popular programs in the Middle East.

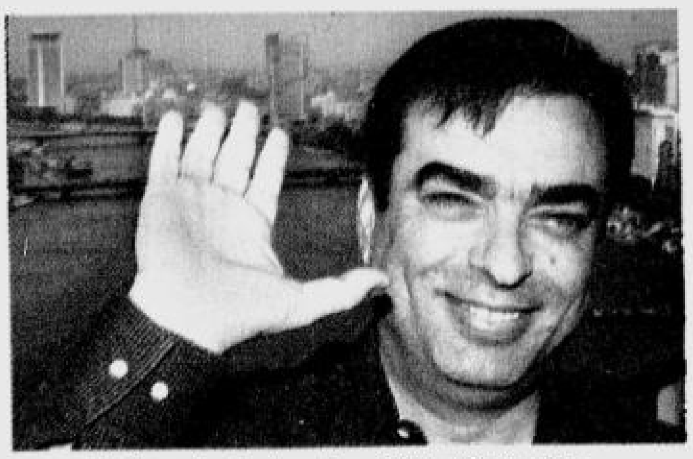
Kordahi, a former journalist who covered the civil war in his native Lebanon, said he couldn't do a show that ignored serious current events, and that the plight of the Palestinians was the issue of the moment.

"I'm sad like every Arab at what Israel is doing to the Palestinians, for their huge sacrifices and the blood of the martyrs, which is reflected on the mood of the show," he said.

Charities

In December, Kordahi quizzed three "martyrs' mothers" whose sons or daughters were killed by Israeli troops. They won a total of $100,000 and said they would donate it to charities. (The top prize is 1 million Saudi riyals, or $267,000.)

Since the Palestinian intefadeh erupted in September 2000, 1,677 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 504 people on the Israeli side.



KORDAHI. Hosts the Arab version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

Produced by the Saudi-owned MBC satellite station, the quiz show debuted across the Arab world a few months after the intefadeh began. From the start, the television images of Palestinian-Israeli clashes that dominated the news programs of MBC and other satellite stations seemed to set the mood on the show.

Along the way Kordahi, in his late 40s, became a celebrity, dapper in designer suits and known for establishing an immediate personal connection with his guests because of his warm manner and questions about their families and professions.

The "Millionaire" formula pioneered by Britain's Celador Productions has had a similar effect In the United States, Regis Philbin set fashion trends with his monochromatic ties and shirts before the ABC network decided to drop the prime-time show. In India, movie star Amitabh Bachchan, whose fortunes had faded to the point that a bank was threatening to sell off his mansion because of bad debts, got a boost when he began asking "Are you sure?" on his country's version of the program.

Success

In a two-hour live, phone-in question-and-answer session on a satellite channel based in Lebanon, a woman called to tell Kordahi: "Your captivating eyes and irresistible smile are the reason for the show's success."

"Me, a sex symbol? Seriously, I know I'm good-looking, but not to the extent of being a Prince Charming," Kordahi told The Associated Press in an interview in the five-star Cairo hotel suite he has made his home since February.

After the game show established his celebrity and his link to the Palestinian cause, Kordahi was recruited to help promote a telethon that collected more than $100 million for the Palestinians in one day in April.

(US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate in April that some of the $100 million may have gone to elements of the Islamic militant group, Hamas. US officials said that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, whose country staged the telethon, has given assurances that the proceeds were for humanitarian aid groups.)

"I think I unified their (Arabs') views, feelings and admiration around a certain program," Kordahi said. "I helped Arabs to get to know each other more." *AP*

Cecile Licad as her father's daughter

By Pablo A. Tariman

A FEW weeks before her father passed away, pianist Cecile Licad, who lives in Manhattan, got a call from Manila.

Her ailing father, Dr. Jesus Licad, told her over the phone, "Cecile, I don't think I can live for a few more weeks. If something happens to me and you have an engagement, finish that commitment and visit me later."

Engagement

True enough, when her father died one day in November of 2000, the pianist had an engagement and she couldn't cancel.

Before a recital in Boston, waiting at the wings for her turn to begin the concert, she psyched herself to a positive performance even as she was stifling her grief, "Papa, this is for you. This performance is for you," she intoned.

And so she played with heart and conviction, imagining her father was in the audience and watching her with pride.

After the performance, which ended with a standing ovation, the pianist was in tears over the fact that her father was gone.

There were four days left before another engagement.

Then she called, "Pablo, I am coming home to see my father."

Last mass

She arrived in Manila one evening; played a Chopin Etude after the last mass for her father's funeral the next day, and flew back to New York to fulfill another engagement.

At the airport, she told me "Pablo, I felt much better seeing my father's remains for the last time."

What role did Dr. Jesus Licad play in his celebrated daughter's musical career?

It seemed that Dr. Licad wanted another musician in the family (his wife, Rosario, was a pianist) and made sure the unborn baby was exposed to a regular dose of classical music.

In her book, "My Daughter Cecile," Ms Licad recalled how, in her seventh month of pregnancy, she was brought to an evening of music making in the home of Dr. Ambrocio Tangco, who used to organize monthly soirees for his fellow surgeons. She was treated to an evening of Spanish songs and she herself played her uncle's (Francisco Buencamino's) "Larawan" in her pregnant condition.

LICAD with dad.

Dr. Licad believed those musical numbers would influence the unborn baby, and that was the reason he played classical music all day in their Cubao home.

First reaction

When Cecile was born on May 11, 1961, Dr. Licad noticed her long fingers and the couple's first reaction was, "She could be a pianist when she grows up. Let us name her after Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music."

And so, that's how the pianist got her name.

Licad's early lessons were under the watchful eyes of her father, who insisted that she be taught how to read notes even before she could read the alphabet.

When she had started her lessons with her first teacher, Ms Rosario Picazo, it was her father who would wake her up at 5 a.m. to have breakfast and at 6:15 a.m. she should be ready to practice."

While it was Ms Licad who brought daughter to her piano teacher, it was Dr. Licad who imposed discipline and made sure that her practice regimen would not play second fiddle to anything else.

One time in 1977, when the celebrated prodigy was scheduled to appear in three concerts (a duo with Philipp Entremont, a solo recital and a Schumann concerto with the PPO), the unexpected happened—the pianist made a slight error in the last movement of the Schumann concerto.

Ms Licad casually brought it up during one family dinner and got an unexpected reaction. Cecile's father got mad and delivered "a harangue about mother and daughter's frequent socializing and not getting enough practice."

Invitations

Cecile's father ranted thus: "You keep on accepting all these dinner invitations and look what happened to your performance. Enough of these sumptuous dinners! From now on, if a performance is not perfect, you will have nothing but *tuyo* for dinner."

Ms Licad wrote in defense of the pianist's father: "I don't think Dr. Licad was serious about his threat to put Cecile on a diet of fried fish! What he wanted to impress on her was the need for thorough preparations before each concert, preparations that should not be sacrificed for anything else.

"Both father and daughter are perfectionists in their own way, and each cannot tolerate minor errors, especially when it comes to the craft of music."

When Ms Licad recalled this incident, she wondered if it was right to even bring up the matter of a few missing measures.

When Cecile was already performing abroad and started getting recognition, her first impulse when she passed an audition, won a competition and received school citations was always, "Let's call Papa!"

A year before he passed away, Dr. Licad cooked for his homecoming daughter after her CCP and provincial engagements, and treated her to a sumptuous dinner at home.

Dr. Licad was the other crucial partner behind a celebrated pianist.

Book

It was Dr. Licad who brought up the matter of a book about his daughter. Ms Licad acknowledged the role of her daughter's father in the first book on Licad: "I was not keen on becoming a book author but Cecile's father insisted that I owed it to myself to retrace the musical life of our daughter, if only to serve as a testament not only of our family life, but of how we worked as a team to take care of the future of a piano prodigy.

"He dug up the family files, he re-arranged the family albums and he was virtually a librarian of Cecile's souvenir programs."

As Cecile Licad plays with the San Miguel Philharmonic at the CCP on June 17, she could still be telling herself in the absence of her father, "This performance is for you, Papa."

(Cecile Licad's June 17 performance with the San Miguel Philharmonic under the baton of Rodel Colmenar at the CCP is presented by Renaissance Entertainment Corp. in cooperation with HSBC Premier and PLDT along with 98.7 dzFE, Novelliino Italian Wines, Petron BPI Mastercard and the Makati Shangri-La Plaza Hotel.)

Her national tour includes a solo recital at the CCP on June 24 and performances in Laoag City (June 22), Davao City (June 26), Antipolo City (June 30) and at the Pasig Museum (July 2). Call 643-7428 or 6873592. Cell no. 09192522770.

Low-budget local films are outdrawing Hollywood blockbusters in Haiti

By Michael Norton

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—A new visual art form is budding in Haiti, known mostly for its naif art and flamboyantly painted buses known as "tap-tap" jitneys.

Rage

Low-budget Haitian movies have become the rage, sometimes drawing bigger audiences than Hollywood blockbusters like "Planet of the Apes" and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

"Our cinema is embryonic, but full of potential," said filmmaker Arnold Antonin, 57. "Haitians don't want to be invisible. They want to see themselves and their problems portrayed on the screen."

Perhaps Antonin's most heralded work is "Courage of Women," a 2000 documentary that lovingly portrays the harsh lives of two sisters. They break rocks and sell them to builders to support their families, including unemployed young male relatives who consider their drudgery demeaning.

The documentary and its director were to be honored May 24 at the Cannes Film Festival.

Beauty contest

The first Haitian film was shot in 1962—a documentary about a beauty contest, "But I am Beautiful," by Ricardo Widmeier and Edouard Guilbaud. Fifteen years later, Bob Lemoine directed the country's first feature-length film, a 16mm romance called "Olivia," about a peasant girl who falls in love with a city slicker.

Other movies were few and far between under the stifling 29-year dictatorship of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier.

After a popular uprising toppled the dictatorship in 1986, Antonin returned to his homeland after 23 years' exile in Europe and Venezuela.

He had already made several 16mm documentaries on political subjects. But Haiti, in an economic downturn since 1980, was too poor technologically to produce 16mm films. Facilities to buy, develop and edit film still don't exist in the Caribbean nation.

In the past 20 years, seven movie houses have shut down in the area around the capital, Port-au-Prince. Only four remain.

So filmmakers have turned to video, which is cheaper.

In the past 15 years, about 20 feature-length video movies have been shown, drawing crowds despite their poor lighting, awkward camera work, amateur actors and stilted French dialogue. Most are lurid domestic dramas and love stories with names like "Afraid to Love" and "The Choice of My Life."

Antonin made several documentaries, four about Haitian artists, before he tackled his first feature-length film last year. With a script by Haiti's most prominent novelist, Gary Victor, the satiric comedy "Piwoli and the Gangster" won critical and popular acclaim.

But the film, like its characters, faced hurdles. The cultural center run by Antonin was burglarized. Equipment he had accumulated over 10 years was stolen. The self-financed movie cost about $25,000, and the actors and technicians—as well as Antonin and Victor—were not paid. Though the film was shot in two weeks, it took three months to edit because of daily electrical outages.

Still, at its release in February in adjacent rooms of the Imperial Theater, Haiti's premier movie house, 350 people watched "Piwoli and the Gangster" while only 50 opted for "Planet of the Apes," which opened at around the same time. Over two months, Antonin's movie drew 30,000 moviegoers; "Harry Potter" drew 10,000 over a similar period.

"'Piwoli' shows cinematic prowess. It is proof we can make great films with small means," said art historian Michel-Philippe Lerebours.

Patrons pay 60 Haitian gourdes—about $2.50—at a top movie house such as the Imperial, and about $1 at others.

True image

"It makes me laugh and kills my stress. It is a true image of Haitian foibles," said Gilbert Saint-Fleury, 25, who saw "Piwoli" 10 times.

Piwoli is a former soldier who lives in suburban comfort but whose boastfulness leaves his dreamy wife cold. He lets her use his new car and wonders, What more does she want? *AP*

PAL flight attendants in the late '60s, seated from left, Ruth Mangahas, Faith Concha, and Marizen Sillona. Standing from left, Tita Meneses (Trillo), Marita Jimenez, Nena Jones and Vicky Colmenares.

Marita Waugh and Eureka Dive

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AT MAGNUM, the new classy restobar of Tita Trillo in Greenbelt 2, I met up with Marita Jimenez-Bulseco Waugh with her family. Mother Melania, a spritely and charming 83, former public school teacher for 30 years in Quezon City, is from Infanta Quezon.

Youngest captain

Marita is based in Sydney and my pal from Philippine Airlines. In 1970, Marita married PAL's youngest captain, Edwin Bulseco, 26. But by Feb. 3, 1975, Marita was widowed when she was four months pregnant. Captain Bulseco's plane crashed after take-off in Las Piñas.

In 1976, Marita went to Sydney, Australia and attended a course with Quantas Airways. She became an assistant trainor of flight attendants at Air New Guinea. In the course of her job, the young widow met a 36-year-old electrical engineer who was a bachelor working with radar at Quantas Airways, Geoffrey Waugh. Two months after getting married, Marita and Goeffrey flew to the Philippines, fixed the travel papers of her kids, Mary Jane, Joanna, and Edwin Jr.

Now, Goeffrey has retired. Mary Jane is 31, finishing law and is married to an English barrister, James Sleight, whose father is Peter Sleight, one of the world's top cardiologists. James, 41, handles big deal legal cases in Sydney. They have two kids, Nida Jane, 12 and Robert, 2.

Fashion designer

Meanwhile, Joanna, 30, qualified for the 15 slots at East Sydney College for a fashion design course. She already had a degree in tourism but preferred to be a fashion designer. She designs for Sydney's cosmopolitan crowd and lives in Rushcutters Bay.

Edwin Jr. is an IT consultant in London and wants to pursue an MBA in the USA.

Marita's kids by Geoffrey are Katherine, 23, still in college, and Graham, 22, who has completed a business course.

Marita visits Manila twice a year to be with relatives and friends. Last Jan. 5, she attended the AFFAP (Association of Former Flight Attendants of the Philippines) global reunion at the Manila Hotel. She went on medical mission with her doctor sister based in West Virginia, Dr. Hedy J. Windsor.

Every year, Marita helps her sister distributes medicines to the poor in Quezon.

Coordinator

She was the coordinator in a symposium in Rome four years ago on the two hearts (the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary).

At the moment, Marita Waugh is in Manila to boost Eureka Dive, which is running a scuba diving school in its state-of-the-art classroom and confined water sessions held at the beautiful Rockwell Club swimming pools.

Marita is selling Eureka Dive's Parkway Scuba, a popular US manufacturer of high quality scuba diving equipment, known for its titanium-bsed wetsuits, high-performance regulators, and other products, including the Tiburon BC. The store is owned by her favorite cousin, Josephine Jimenez, and is located at the third floor of the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center. Call 756-0170.

Updates

Corito Fiel was bumped by a van last Wednesday and is now at the ICU of Makati Medical Center. Her family being abroad, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza, Maan Hontiveros and Monica Feria watch over her.

Tita Trillo's mother passed away last Thursday after an open heart operation. She will be brought to Baguio City today.

Mandy's e-mail: mn_photocom i-manila.com.ph or call 522-1905 or 522-5185 or 89.

AT MAGNUM, seated are Melania Jimenez, Precy Jimenez-Paquiz and daughter Jojay. Standing from left, Gianelle Paquiz, Tita Trillo, Marita and Edna Bulseco.

Lear tunes into music and the Declaration of Independence

By Sue Zeidler

"ALL in the Family" was only one of the hit, trailblazing TV shows that Lear created.

LOS ANGELES—What do you do if you're nearing 80 and have already changed the course of TV in your lifetime? Well, if you're Norman Lear, you buy a record company and a piece of history like the "Declaration of Independence."

Change

Best known as the creator of Archie Bunker in the 1970s groundbreaking sitcom "All in the Family," Lear is showing no signs of slowing down. Rather he's doing what he says he does best, trying to effect change in America.

"I don't feel 'been there, done that' about anything. I just wake up in the morning and follow, as Joseph Campbell said, 'my bliss,'" Lear said during a recent interview at the Beverly Hills, California, office of his company, Act III Communications.

Act III has stakes in film and broadcasting, owns the legendary Concord Records jazz label and also runs Lear's pet project, the "Declaration of Independence Road Trip."

The winner of numerous Emmys, Lear received a National Medal of Arts in 1999 from former President Bill Clinton, who said Lear "held up a mirror to the American society and changed the way we look at it."

Mission

These days, the trim, energetic producer whose appearance belies the fact he turns 80 in July, arrives at his office at 8 every morning with a mission. But instead of holding up the "mirror" through television, Lear is hoping to raise awareness with his multimedia roadtrip and inspire young people to exercise their right to vote.

A lifelong lover of history, Lear bought his own original copy of the Declaration of Independence online in June 2000.

"The minute I saw it I knew I wanted it. It would be the people's document and we would have it traveling everywhere and hopefully getting people to understand the gift they'd been given, the gift of opportunity in this country," he said.

About 200 copies of the document were made in Philadelphia just after it was drafted and approved on July 4, 1776.

Lear, who took the show to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, believes Americans need to "connect" with their rights even more now in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"After 9/11, suddenly there was a need that hadn't existed to move it (the Declaration) around faster," he said. "There was little connection between most Americans and their government and liberties . . . beyond hanging a flag on a car antenna."

Parades

Lear, born in New Haven, Connecticut, inherited his love for America from his immigrant grandfather, who enjoyed parades.

"He loved standing on the corner when the flag went by and he used to write presidents all the time. I fell in love with what he loved so much," said Lear, who won a college scholarship through an American Legion oratorical contest.

"I won for the state of Connecticut. It was the only way I would have gotten to college. My folks were broke," he said.

Lear started out writing and directing in the early years of TV, but left the medium in the 1960s for film. He knew he'd hit gold, however, in 1968 when he bought the US rights to "Till Death Us Do Part," a hit British sitcom about a working class London family that dealt frankly with prejudice.

Lear rewrote it for American audiences and pitched it to ABC, but the network got cold feet and Lear got CBS to sign on in 1970. Retitled "All in the Family," the show hit the airwaves in January 1971, becoming the No. 1 show five months later, where it stayed for five years.

It ran for nine seasons, won 21 Emmys and spawned spinoffs, like "Good Times," "The Jeffersons," and "Sanford and Son."

By dealing with issues like bigotry and homosexuality that no one had tackled before, Lear changed the face of television and redefined sitcoms. He also pioneered the use of videotape on TV, which gave the shows a more realistic feel.

Persistence

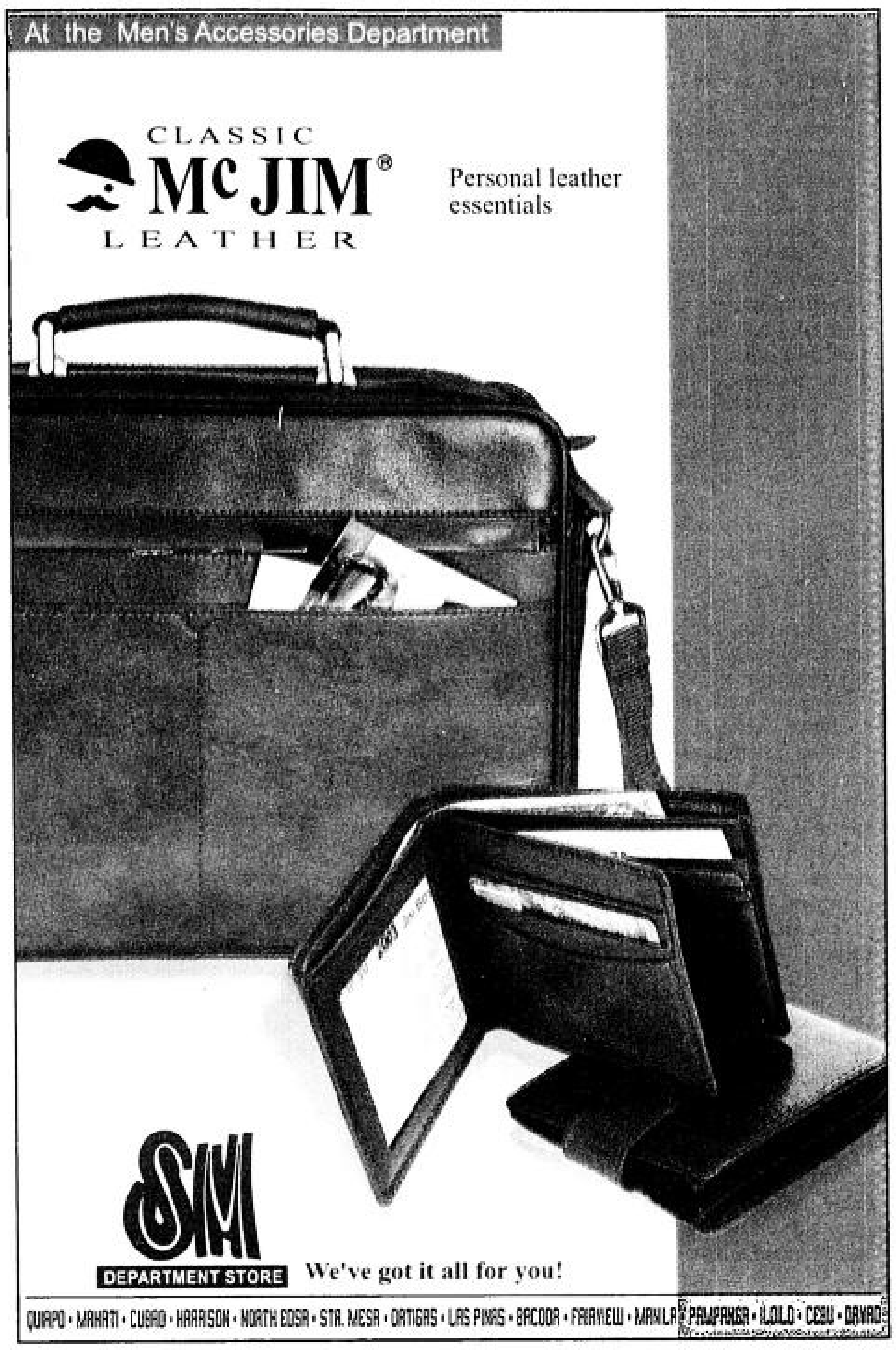
While persistence has paid off for Lear creatively, he is a self-described failure in business and credits his partner, jazz buff Hal Gaba, for digging him out of a financial hole.

"I started Act III and didn't do well. I started to be something I'm not, which is an executive, and got into big trouble. Hal is everything I'm not. He rolled up his sleeves and bailed me out in three years," he said.

Getting a crash course in the music business, Lear now finds himself mired in lengthy litigation involving a treasure trove of Las Vegas performances by legends like Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Judy Garland, taped secretly at Caesars Palace by sound engineer David Rogers, who worked at the hotel.

Gaba was negotiating Act III's purchase of Concord in 1999 when he learned of the tapes and set up a deal with Rogers' stepson Gilbert Cebollero.

LEAR/ p. E6



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French film voted 54th best movie of all time on internet

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"LA Fabuleux Destin d' Amelie Poulain," the French film that won awards at the Edinburgh, Toronto and Chicago film festivals, was recently voted in an internet survey as the 54th best film of all time.

Critics worldwide have praised the film to high heavens, calling it "a delicious pastry of a movie," "an illuminating mix of magic and pragmatism," and "a fairy tale told with every post-modernist flourish."

Invitation

A critic of Amazon.com even went further and hailed it as the "most charming movie of all time." When we recently received an invitation to watch the film at the opening of the 7th French Film Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza, we braved Manila's traffic to find out what the hype was all about. We were not disappointed.

From the film's opening (a fast narrative background and stunning visual montage of Amelie's life, starting from her parent's quirks, to the union of their sperm and egg cells, which resulted in the birth of baby Amelie), we knew this was no ordinary movie!

Jean-Pierre Jeunet, the film's director, has woven an unusual tapestry of quick inter-cuts, pans and dissolves to satirize Amelie's miserable life her father's cold treatment and eventual fixation on a garden gnome, her mother's suicide, and her own decline into the depths of loneliness and solitude.

That sad fate led her goldfish to jump out of the fish bowl—a scene that elicited loud chuckles from the audience. "Black humor," I heard a lady commenting to a seatmate. And it worked.

Barmaid

At the age of 22, Amelie (brilliantly played by Audrey Tautou), worked as a barmaid in Montmartre. led a solitary life observing people, skimming stones across ponds, dipping her hands in sacks of grains, and getting curious about everything.

At one time, she stood on a terrace overlooking the city of Paris and wondered how many people were having orgasms at that exact moment. But it was the death of Princess Diana that changed her life forever.

Shocked upon watching the news on television, she accidentally dropped a bottle cap, which hit a loose tile in the wall of her apartment. When she opened the tile, Amelie discovered a small box of pictures which, she surmised, was left by a former tenant. She decided to trace the owner of the box and was overjoyed when the former apartment tenant broke into tears of happiness upon seeing the box of childhood possessions.

From there, Amelie found her own mission in life: to make other people happy. She created her own strategies and intervened incognito in other people's woes and troubles.

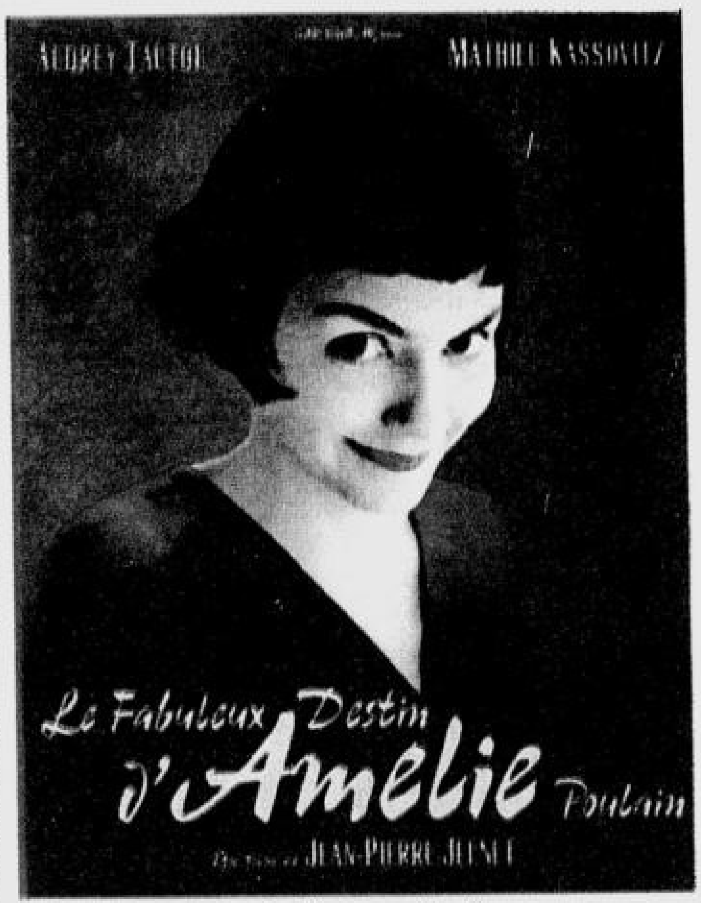
Recluse

The list included a recluse who incessantly painted Renoir's "Luncheon at the Boating Party," a vegetable grocer's son who dreamed of being loved by his estranged husband, and a nervous cigarette vendor *cum* cashier who worked at the same café and had secretly fallen for a seemingly wicked man.

One day, a man at the train station who collected crumbled and torn photos outside the automatic photo booths caught Amelie's attention. His name was Nino Quincampoix (played by Matthew Kassovitz), a lonely man who worked in a sex shop, and whose source of joy was to piece the torn photos of strangers like a jigsaw puzzle, and paste them in an album.

Smitten by Nino's quirk, Amelie secretly investigated the man's life, and stars falling for him. However, she felt afraid of her own feelings and didn't allow her identity to be revealed to the man of her dreams. In the end, it was one of Amelie's "healed patients," the reclusive painter, who taught her not to be afraid of opening and expressing herself to the man she loved.

Simple as it may seem, the beauty of the movie lies in the connection of these vignettes told in impressive visual inventions. Which is what I find fascinating in most European films—simple plots are presented in an extraordinary and unconventional fashion, but they remain interestingly cohesive up to the end.



AUDREY Tautou is a major discovery as Amelie.

Visual flourishes

In "Amelie's" case, the visual flourishes helped in weaving the whimsical fable together because it connected, rather than jarred the flow of events, evoked feelings, and emphasized points. For example, we saw Amelie literally dissolving into a puddle of water when she found out Nino had already left the café without really knowing her. The audience laughed but felt her pain just the same.

We also saw Nino watching four photos of strangers come alive and argue with each other on her real identity, which was still mysterious. Of course we've seen this before in Woody Allen films and lately, in "Moulin Rouge," but the blending of elements has not been as good as this, and the pacing and witty voice-over elicited more hilarious guffaws from the audience.

While the film might not be romantically thrilling, it will nevertheless evoke positive feelings in spite of its lonely and tragic undertones, and its delving into people's eccentricities.

Why? Because the story is told from the point of view of a woman who may have led a lonely and solitary childhood, but has not been corrupted by life's bitterness.

After I had gone home, the image of Amelie still lingered in my mind. The lonely, wounded healer who had found the strength and courage to confront the elusive emotion called love, and discovered happiness in the process.

Where have you gone, Mrs. Robinson?

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—It says something about the unnecessary stage version of "The Graduate" that the most telling line is delivered by Mr. Robinson, NOT Mrs. Robinson, the iconic middle-age seductress of the inexperienced Benjamin Braddock.

Hero

"You'll never be young again," the man warns our hero as he approaches his 21st birthday. Neither will "The Graduate," which has been stripped of its wit, wisdom and satire in this uninspired, boilerplate adaptation. Director Terry Johnson draws from both the novel by Charles Webb and Mike Nichols' wickedly observant 1967 film version, which had a screenplay by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry.

The play, now on view at Broadway's Plymouth Theater, lands with a thud despite the presence of Kathleen Turner, who also starred in the successful London production. New York goes London two better in the marquee department—adding Jason Biggs of "American Pie" as the overeager Benjamin and Alicia Silverstone of "Clueless" as his true love, Elaine Robinson.

Not that it makes much difference. Neither brings much—except perhaps in the important ticket-sales department—to the production, which has been ploddingly directed by Johnson.

Big lure

Turner is the big lure and she, unfortunately, seems oddly one-dimensional. Her husky, whiskey-tinged voice is a plus. After all, the tart-tongued Mrs. Robinson admits to being an alcoholic. But Turner's acting consists of predatory poses, usually with one leg thrust slightly forward as if ready to run the 100-yard dash.

TURNER. Also starred in the successful London production of "The Graduate."

Much was made in London of the actress' nude scene, a brief, dimly lighted moment during which Mrs. Robinson first propositions Benjamin. Turner does bare it all—and looks better naked than she does in some of the unattractive and unflattering outfits designed by Rob Howell.

Biggs has Benjamin's whine down perfectly, but the performance never goes anywhere, stranding his character in a perpetual state of petulance. Physically, Biggs is a much more buffed Benjamin than Dustin Hoffman ever was in the movie. It's physique 2002, rather than a body out of the less physically ambitious 1960s.

But then, the '60s seem like an afterthought to this "Graduate" despite the presence of a few classic Simon and Garfunkel tunes and a bit of the Mamas and the Papas, the Beach Boys and the Rolling Stones thrown in for good measure.

Love interest

As Benjamin's love interest, Silverstone projects a sweet blandness, pretty to look at but unable to command audience attention when she and Biggs take center stage for much of the second act. And director Johnson isn't much help, burdening his young actors with loads of leaden dialogue that lead to a less-than-satisfactory ending—and one that is quite different from the movie.

If the three stars have been carefully cast to attract a wide age range of theatergoers, the supporting cast members, who include Murphy Guyer, Victor Slezak and Kate Skinner, are ciphers. These adults come off as cartoonish without being funny. The fathers bellow incessantly, while Mrs. Braddock is more ninny than motherly.

Even the tiniest roles are shortchanged. In the movie, coscriptwriter Henry had a delicious turn as a skeptical hotel clerk. Here, the scene is practically thrown away.

Howell also designed the monotonous settings, which utilize a series of louvered doors to suggest everything from the Braddock home to that infamous hotel to a seedy bar where Benjamin first takes Elaine on a date.

In the end, though, what makes "The Graduate" so theatrically arid is that you don't care about anyone on stage.

In the film, Anne Bancroft's nuanced performance as Mrs. Robinson suggested, among other things, the hurt and loneliness of an older woman trapped in a failed marriage. Turner barrels forward with such confidence that you assume if Benjamin doesn't work out, there will be another young man waiting in the wings. And Hoffman exuded a quiet sexual desperation which made him much more appealing—and comic—than the workmanlike Biggs.

In the end, "The Graduate" on stage fails to make the grade. *AP*

Lear tunes into music . . .

From p. E5

Union

Some CDs were actually released briefly at Caesars gift shops in August 2001, but a union representing the back-up musicians in the performances initiated a lawsuit over royalties shortly thereafter, causing the hotel to pull the discs.

The case is dragging on in the courts.

Lear declined to comment on the lawsuit, but it does not appear to have dampened his enthusiasm for the music business. He is upbeat about Concord, which is home to Tito Puente and Rosemary Clooney.

"Hal's passion for jazz has taken us to Concord and the music business, just as my passion has taken us to the Declaration. I love what I know, just as Hal loves what he loves and we're having a good time," he said. *Reuters*

'Basta Pinoy, Ang Galing!'

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THERE was a time when I shopped for children's clothes in the US. Both Clara and Bianchi were barely three feet tall then and IC was just learning to walk. I had a jolly good time choosing shirts and skirts, pants and jackets, and sweaters and overalls of all colors and styles and designs. I sniffed them, I gently rubbed the fabrics on my face. Uhmm . . . I just loved the sweet smell and feel of imported products!

Consternation

Imagine my consternation when, upon arrival in Manila, as I distributed my bundle of goodies very much like Santa Claus, Clara's *yaya* pointed out to me that most of the things I bought had the very inconspicuous "Made in the Philippines" mark. I bought them at Bloomingdale's but they were as Pinoy as Divisoria and Baclaran!

I had this very *sosyalera* friend who once confided that, whenever her husband played around, she bought something outrageously expensive. One time, when he had a silly fling with his secretary, she changed the look of their entire house. She even flew to the US to buy furniture.

When she came back home, she hired the services of a pricey interior designer who, alas!, informed her that the signature pieces of stratospherically-expensive furniture she had bought at Roche Bobois were actually made in Cebu!

Fair

Why am I sharing this? Because starting today, June 15, the 1st National GK Trade, Agri and Job Fair is being held at the Riverbanks Center, Marikina City. Spearheaded by Couples for Christ, the fair is the first of its kind in the country—an idea whose time has finally come.

CFC social ministries director Tony Meloto explains what this fair is all about: "For quite a long time now, we Filipinos have been held hostage by the belief that anything imported is of top quality and anything Filipino must be mediocre.

"For many of us, the antonym of 'original' is 'local.' This is an insult to us, it wounds us as a people. And we are the ones inflicting it on ourselves.

"Fact is, many Filipino products and services are at par with the world's best. Filipino designers and producers are held in high esteem in other countries for their cutting-edge creativity, originality, ingenuity, inventiveness and world-class excellence. In fact, many of our designs and products are being copied and mass-produced by other countries, such as China.

Failure

"But, we Filipinos, look down on ourselves. We have lost sight of our capacity for greatness as we have chosen to wallow in our misery, and have adopted the mindset of losers. We look at ourselves in the mirror and see a portrait of failure.

"This has to change. We have to stand up and claim the greatness that God planned for us. We can do this by first believing that we have it in us to succeed."

Meloto points out the need to affirm and underscore the bright side of the Filipino. And it is in this light that CFC spearheads the 1st National GK Trade, Agri & Job Fair, a festival of the best in the Filipino that culminates in the grand celebration of the 21st CFC anniversary on June 23.

In the trade fair, the best Filipino exporters and manufacturers from all over the country are participating, and they are selling their world-class products at FOB prices.

The products include shoes, garments, furniture and furnishings, toys and gift items, houseware, handicrafts, Christmas decors, jewelry and fashion accessories, pottery, garden estuary and processed foods.

Meanwhile, the agri fair is a celebration of the produce of the land, showcasing the Filipino's best in farms and gardens, plants and flowers, poultry and livestock, agri- and aquaculture, as well as the latest advances in agri-based technologies.

Workshops

There will be demos and workshops, games, contests and competitions, animal shows, and seminars on livelihood, entrepreneurship, cooperativism, and sustainable development.

The job fair will run on June 21 and 22. For job-seekers, there's job matching. Aside from that, there will be skills demonstrations in the areas of floristry and flower arrangement, computer skills for the visually impaired, restaurant services and reflexology. The job fair will also give lectures on such topics as writing an impressive job resume, preparing for a job interview, and planning one's career.

Activities during the nine-day event include fun games and contests, a fashion show for kids, pet and garden shows, brass band demonstration, celebrity auction and foodfests. There will be nightly activities as well—a choral showdown, bandfest, singing contest, father's day celebration and ballroom dancing.

Participation

But what Tony Meloto considers the most significant part of the 1st National GK Trade, Agri and Job Fair is the participation of CFC's Gawad Kalinga communities from all over the country. They are the beneficiary-families of Couples for Christ's work with the poor. Their livelihood projects have produced high-quality products that they are very proud of.

There are beautiful ladies' bags made from old newspaper from Smokey Mountain, hand-made paper and silk-screen products from Bagong Silang, novelty candles made by the rebel returnees of Escalante City, hand-made doormats by the women of Las Piñas, colorful fabrics from Zamboanga, and assorted foodstuffs from Bulacan and Pampanga.

Opportunity

"Over and above the opportunity to earn a decent income, there is dignity restoration here," Meloto enthuses. "The poor will rediscover their sense of pride and honor when they see the goods made by their hands being displayed and sold alongside the best that the Filipino has produced. And all of us have the chance to buy all these export-quality products at Manila (FOB) prices."

The event is sponsored by the City Government of Marikina, the Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI), Agriculture (DA), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Agrarian Reform (DAR), the National Food Authority (NFA), Quedancor, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), UP-Los Baños, Riverbanks Development Corp., Coca Cola, Wyeth, Phils. and San Miguel Corp.

I used to love anything imported. But, after listening to Tony Meloto, I'm open to changing my habits and mindsets—especially if it can be the start of something truly great for this country.

"Basta Pinoy, Ang Galing!" This is the slogan of the 1st National GK Trade, Agri and Job Fair. It might as well be the battlecry of the entire nation!

'N Sync's Bass gets thumbs up for space flight

If successful, he would take the title for youngest person in space from German Titov, the second Russian man in space, who blasted off in 1961 at the tender age of 25

By Clara Ferreira-Marques

MOSCOW—Lance Bass, a member of hugely popular US boy band 'N Sync, said on Friday he had won a preliminary go-ahead from Russian doctors to become the first pop star in space and the youngest spaceman ever.

Confident

"I'm pretty confident we will be able to pull this off. I know physically I can do this," a beaming Bass, 23, told a news conference after a battery of tests at Russia's Star City.

"We'll have a deal in place within two weeks," he said, smiling as he crossed his fingers.

But Bass, who hopes to blast off as part of a mission due to visit the International Space Station in October, has yet to receive an official approval from the Russian space agency, Rosaviakosmos.

"I have not had a formal proposal. That's what we're waiting on," he said. "Nothing is certain, I think, with any mission, up to a week before it goes up, before they choose the final crew." Bass said it was his life-long dream to fly into orbit.

If successful, he would take the title for youngest person in space from German Titov, the second Russian man in space, who blasted off in 1961 at the tender age of 25.

Long way to go

Rosaviakosmos, which has played down Bass's bid in the past, said there was still a long way to go before the singer could confirm his flight.

"In order to get a place in the schedule of preparations for the flight, Lance Bass must take energetic measures to take forward negotiations with Rosaviakosmos and provide the necessary legal documents," spokesman Sergei Gorbunov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

If given the stamp of approval, Bass will be the third man to pay his way into space aboard a Russian craft. Millionaire Dennis Tito became the first space tourist last year, followed in April by South African Internet magnate Mark Shuttleworth.

Both were widely reported to have paid $20 million, enough to cover the entire cost of a manned space launch.

It was not clear how much Bass's backers, a consortium of companies rounded up by a Hollywood producer, would be paying.

Bass told reporters he had already begun learning Russian "through immersion," and insisted he would dedicate himself to the project in the four months leading up to the flight. "By the time I've finished I'll be quasi-fluent in Russian," said Bass who first visited Moscow in March. "I love Russia. I can definitely live here."

Experiments

Asked about how he would spend his time in space, Bass said he had been impressed by the dedication of Shuttleworth, who used his time in space to perform research on AIDS. Bass said he would "definitely be doing some experiments." "My main focus is education, physics studies, that kind of thing," he told reporters.

Bass, the low voice of the five-member 'N Sync, said the space stint would not interrupt his recording schedule. The group finished their latest concert tour several weeks ago.

"It's amazing how perfect the timing was. We had just finished a tour and we were going to take the rest of the year off," he said, adding the other members had been supportive.

The band has proved one of the biggest pop sensations since 1998 when their debut album "'N Sync" sold 10 million copies.

Their March 2000 album "No Strings Attached" was the first in US chart history to sell more than two million copies in its first week of sales. *Reuters*

BASS. Has begun learning Russian "through immersion."

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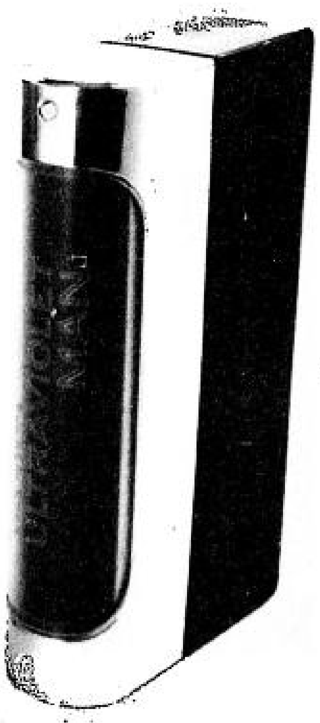

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Be inspired

Frank Langella is nobody's fool

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK--At 7:40 p.m., when most of Broadway is a rush, Frank Langella is quiet and calm.

Honking limousines and taxis clog the streets, pedestrians cram the sidewalks and clumps of people sprint to their theater seats.

Langella is in no such rush. Wedged in a corner of a nearby restaurant, his plate of linguini and clams consumed, the actor is relaxed just 20 minutes before the curtain rises for his play, "Fortune's Fool."

Demeanor

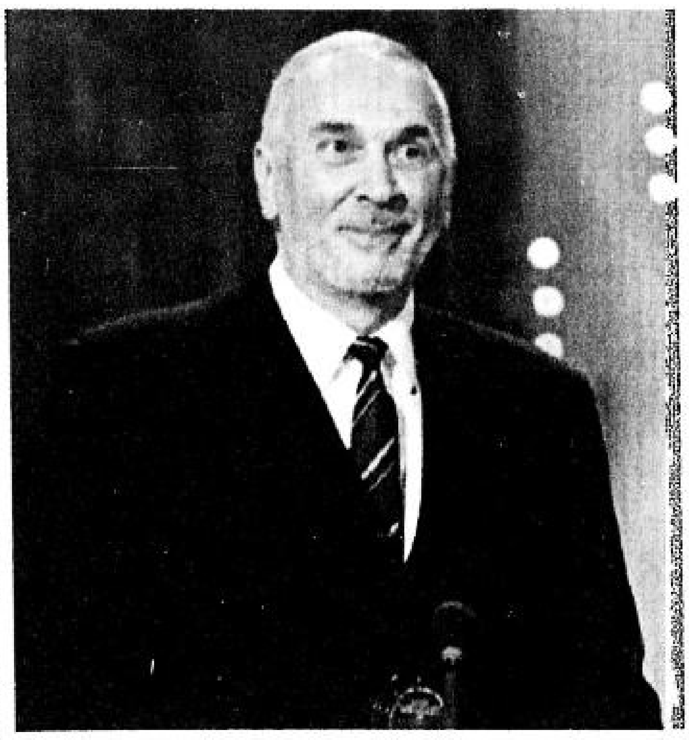
True, Langella doesn't go on until about 8:35 p.m. True, the restaurant is only two doors away. But his demeanor speaks volumes about how the actor has thrived during almost four decades of stage work.

"If I stay home all day preparing for being anxious about myself, it's just a waste of time," he says. "If you get yourself all tied up in knots in preparation, you walk on stage with something the audience won't be able to identify with."

By the time he eventually gets to the theater, Langella needs only a few minutes to slip into his character, a Russian nobleman best described as an infamous, fatuous fop.

Family secret

The play, by Ivan Turgenev, is a mid-19th century look at class, honor and a festering family secret. Langella plays a nosy neighbor who takes great joy in verbally torturing his prey, the title character played by Alan Bates.


LANGELLA. Bored by traditional heroic roles.

"It is necessary for me every night to bring out the very worst in my nature. The pettiest, meanest, most duplicitous part of me," Langella says. "It's just delicious to play."

Delicious parts are no stranger to Langella, who has bitten into several meaty parts, including Sherlock Holmes, Zorro, Leonardo da Vinci, Valmont, Shakespeare--and, of course, Dracula, which he brought to stage in 1977 and reprised on film in 1979.

Langella, 62, who many may recall in his role as the malevolent Chief of Staff Bob Alexander in Ivan Reitman's film, "Dave," admits that he is bored by traditional heroic roles.

So rather than portraying Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Langella played his foil, Salieri. And instead of the hero Christian in "Cyrano de Bergerac," he played the long-nosed title character.

Offbeat

"I've really never been a regular-guy leading man. I've always been offbeat," he says. "I find that when I'm in the middle of it, I'm always finding a quirk, a word or two, a way to do it away from the traditional."

In a few minutes, Langella will rise from his restaurant seat, yank on a baseball cap and stride toward the stage door of "Fortune's Fool." He'll arrive while most of the audience is already patiently sitting in their seats.

And he won't sweat it a bit. *AP*

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SATURDAY *Special*

For these show biz stars, father knows best

By Jocelyn Valle

WHO'S the most influential man in a woman's life? Her boyfriend? Her husband? Her son? Nope! It's her father, of course! We've talked to some of the daddy's girls in the biz and here's why they adore their fathers:

For **Regine Velasquez**, her Dad Gerry is like a *ka-barkada*. *"Bata pa lang ako,"* she shares, *"siya na 'yung nandyan*. He's always with me wherever I go." Mang Gerry (as he's called in the biz) was with the Songbird when she was still doing the rounds of singing contests in Bulacan, till she became one of the best and most popular singers in the country today.

"I wouldn't say he was my manager then," she shakes her head. "He was never my manager. He did manage my life, though. He'd always been part of the decision-making process concerning my career even when I had my manager (Primeline's Ronnie Henares)."

The "SOP" host relates that there had been many times when their (father and daughter's) relationship was put to the test. *"Pero habang lumalaki ka*, you get to know each other," she points out.

"Dito kasi, 'pag tatay mo, 'di mo talagang nakikilala. Basta alam mo lang na tatay siya. I guess, *mas* close *kami ngayon.* We have many things in common."

They both worry about a lot of things, she shares. And to put to rest all false paternal claims on her, Regine declares that she got her looks from Mang Gerry.

Manager

They are so alike that they inevitably clash at times. A case in point was Regine's decision to break away from her manager and take charge. "Letting me go was one of the hardest things that he had to go through," she acknowledges. "'Coz I'm already on my own now, I'm basically calling all the shots."

Angelika de la Cruz declares that she's very close to her dad Ernie. *"Lahat ng kalokohan ko, alam niya,"* she laughs. *"Si* Daddy *kasi 'yung tipong lahat—damit ko, gamit ko—siya ang bahala. Ultimo* breakfast *ko, hindi niya pinapaubaya sa* maids or *sa yaya ko."*

She shares that her father is very transparent. "*'Pag galit 'yun, talagang galit*," she explains. "*'Pag nagtatampo, halata mo kaagad. Pareho kami.*"

Ernie de la Cruz is also Angelika's manager, and one of the biggest decisions he's made for her is switching network allegiances. "I wanted to stay with ABS-CBN," she admits. "'Coz all of my friends are there. He's the one who wanted to transfer to GMA 7, *kasi* career move. *S'yempre, sumunod ako*. I trust him."

Well, father knows best. Since joining the Rainbow Network, Angelika has starred in her own soap opera, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," which is one of the most popular now. She's also one of the hosts of Channel 7's Sunday-noontime musical program, "SOP."

Angelika shares that her dad sometimes has problems drawing the line between being a father and a manager. "'*Pagdating sa* kissing scenes, *syempre nananaig pa rin ang pagiging* father *niya, kaya ayaw niya*," she points out. *"Sumasama ang loob niya 'pag kailangan. Pero ngayon na 20 na ako, OK na."*

Intimate scenes

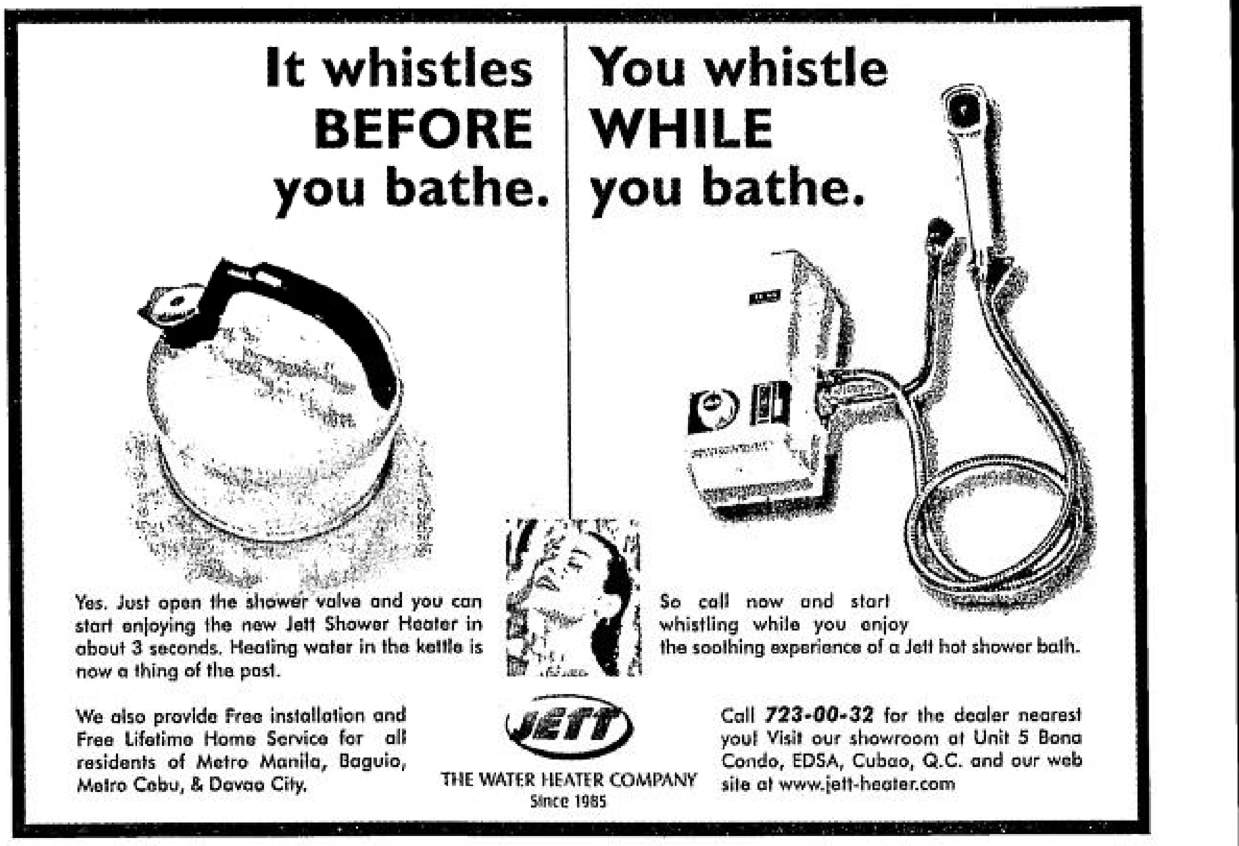
She first locked lips with Robin Padilla in Viva Films' "Hari ng Selda" and soon, she'll have intimate scenes with her small-screen partner, Sherwin Ordoñez. "He wants more mature roles for me *pero kailangan* wholesome *pa rin*," Angelika remarks about her manager and father's career path for her.

Roselle Nava is the only girl in her family.

FOR/ p. F2

SILAYAN. Inspired by her dad to become a beauty queen.

NAVA. Proud to be daddy's girl.



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SMART
Simply Amazing!

35 years ago in Philippine theater

By Nestor U. Torre

AMADOR. Put up Repertory Philippines.

GUIDOTE. Recruited members for PETA.

TINIO. Plugged for plays in Filipino.

WE didn't know it then but, 35 years ago, Philippine theater took a major turn for the better. The trigger for that change was an acting workshop taught by a famous British theater mentor, participated in by some of the best actors in the country.

Members

Two of the members of that acting class were Zeneida "Bibot" Amador and Cecille Guidote. During the workshop, they separately recruited members for the new theater groups that they wanted to put up— Bibot's Repertory Philippines and cecille's Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA). We found ourselves being asked to join both theater groups.

Months later, the two new companies started producing plays. From the very start, they staked out very different territory for themselves: Repertory concentrated on plays in English, while PETA did Filipino material, particularly of the engaged sort. Later, it would also go into TV drama by way of the weekly anthology show, "Balintataw."

Halcyon days

Those were halcyon days for Philippine theater. The leading theater actors then worked for free or for very minimal fees, and yet they gave the productions they were involved with everything they had. Without that compleat emotional and creative involvement, Philippine theater would have taken more decades to reach the relatively prosperous stage it's in today.

At PETA, we pushed the move to reach out to the mass audience by doing drama on television, and we scripted and acted in some "Balintataw" episodes. Four of our plays were also mounted by the company. At Rep, we acted in more than 15 productions, from the very first season onwards.

Later, we came to the realization (through the insistent "suggestion" of our mentor, Rolando Tinio, who would become a National Artist) that, since we were Filipinos, we should concentrate on theater in the national language. But we remained friendly with our colleagues at Rep, with whom we continue to have dealings in other spheres to this day.

First season

We remember Rep's first season, and the difficult time that the new theater company initially had in attracting enough people to see its plays. At one performance, there were more people onstage than in the audience!

But Bibot and her colleagues persevered, and Rep today produces eight plays each year, plus one musical and one children's play. That translates into 270 performances a year, attended by more than 100,000 people.

For its part, aside from continuing to stage plays at Fort Santiago, PETA has conducted theater workshops in the provinces, training cultural workers who now produce plays all over the land.

"Balintataw" has ceased telecasting, but many of its "graduates" now work on TV and in the movies, putting to good use the skills they honed on PETA's anthology TV show.

Future of theater

Congratulations to Rep and PETA for thriving for all of these 35 years, and for continuing to develop talents to assure the future of theater in the Philippines. Let's show our thanks by patronizing their new productions.

Rep opens its new season on June 20 with "Visiting Mr. Green," followed on July 25 by Donald Margulies' "Dinner with Friends," on Aug. 29 by "Much Ado About Nothing," and Jay Allen's "Forty Carats" on Oct 3. Out-of-season productions are "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" starting on July 20, and "A Christmas Carol" on Nov. 14.

Even better, we hope that PETA and Rep's anniversaries will inspire other theater artists to start their own companies, especially in other parts of the country.

The success of these two companies "against all odds" proves that it can be done, it's supremely worth doing, and it *can* be done well!

Paltrow's bare toes wow theater-goers

PALTROW. Superb actress.

LONDON—Hollywood star Gwyneth Paltrow bared more than her soul in her play "Proof", sending the audience and critics into raptures with a wiggle of her naked toes.

Strong praise

The Oscar-winning actress won strong praise for her portrayal of the daughter of a mad mathematical genius, audience members describing her performance as "superb" and "magnificent."

"Absolutely fantastic. It was the most fabulous night at the theater you could ever have," gushed one male theater-goer to reporters after the show.

"It was wonderful, amazing. She really is a superb actress," said a surprised-sounding female member of the audience.

One critic described Paltrow's performance as virtually flawless—right down to her toes.

"It is not often one gets to see anyone acting with their feet. Ms Paltrow manages it, however," said Valentine Low of London's Evening Standard.

"In the first few scenes she is wearing sandals and manages to use her toes to express annoyance, frustration, unhappiness and a whole range of emotions that some actresses cannot

PALTROW/ p. F3

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Madonna not up to much in her London stage debut, critics say

By Matt Wolf

MADONNA (center) with the other actors in "Up for Grabs."

REUTERS

LONDON—Madonna isn't up to much as a theater actress, London critics decided recently, following the material girl's performance at Wyndam's Theater in the art market satire, "Up For Grabs."

But whatever doubts emerged about the pop star's stage chops, several critics were far harsher toward her chosen vehicle—an Australian comedy from David Williamson, the 60-year-old veteran writer whose well-regarded screenplays include "Gallipoli" and "The Year of Living Dangerously."

Awful play

"Madonna in reverse: she gets better as this awful play gets worse," read the headline to Michael Coveney's review in the Daily Mail. While its leading lady "comes good in the end," Coveney faulted "the trite garbage of the play itself and Laurence Boswell's craven, trashy production."

"Williamson uses the bludgeon rather than the rapier," wrote The Guardian's Michael Billington of the play, which casts Madonna as Loren, a desperately ambitious art dealer keen to sell a Jackson Pollock painting.

As for Madonna's performance? "A nonevent," said Billington.

The Independent's Paul Taylor called Madonna "stiff and untrusting," adding, "on occasion, you feel that the car in 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' acts less mechanically." ("Chitty," a London stage musical adapted from the 1968 movie, has been the reigning hit of the spring theater season.)

"Sexy, brave, but Madonna should stick to pop music," ran the headline to Nicholas de Jongh's Evening Standard review. "She tends to slur or swallow words and phrases," said de Jongh.

Limited run

The play was the third and most-anticipated West End show to bring a starry American newcomer to the London stage, after Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow.

All three shows have done well, with "Up For Grabs" selling out its limited run through July 13.

Paltrow and Damon "have nothing to fear," wrote Robert Gore-Langton in The Daily Express. As regards Madonna: "She tries hard, but she's as flat as a flounder."

She is, however, mighty supple.

Fourteen years after her previous play, David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow" on Broadway, Madonna appears toned and lithe, and moves about Jeremy Herbert's designer-elegant set as if she were ready to break into a dance routine from one of her concerts. Dressed in slinky black underneath a white trenchcoat, her shoulder-length blonde hair giving off its own sheen, she looks a million dollars, as befits an avaricious Manhattanite keen to unload a Pollock canvas for as much as $20 million.

Alphabetical order

Her potential buyers make up most of the rest of the seven-person cast, a predominantly American company with Madonna listed in alphabetical order. (The program bio employs her full married name, Madonna Ritchie.)

The problem comes when she has to speak. Required by the part to address the audience, Madonna began her opening night performance in a thin, small voice that left even those seated near the front straining to hear.

Her projection improved after intermission, even if she seemed technically outclassed by some of her fellow actors—visiting Americans Tom Irwin, from Chicago's

MADONNA/ p. F3

For these show biz stars. . .

From p. F1

Naturally, she's very close to both her parents. "'But my mom knows that I'm closer to my dad. '*Yung* bonding *namin, sobrang* strong," she avers.

"Until now *malaki pa rin ang* influence *ng* parents *ko*, especially my dad. *Hanggang ngayon*, I turn to him *'pag may desisyon na kailangang gawin* for my career. I always seek advice from him."

She's very proud to be a daddy's girl. "*Medyo* spoiled," she giggles. "*Hindi naman lahat binibigay, hanggang sa abot ng makakaya.*"

"*Pero may* disadvantage *din*," continues the singer-actress, who's cast as the best friend of Joyce Jimenez in "I Think I'm in Love." "For one, I can't move freely *kasi may bantay*. It's also hard for him to accept *na malaki na ako. Gusto niya mag*-remain *na lang akong* 16.

"*Sa* career, daddy *ko ang talagang nag*-push *sa akin*. Since I was eight, *siya 'yung naghirap na maghatid sa akin, sumundo sa akin, sumama sa* show *ko. Siya 'yung nagwo*-worry *kung ano ang kakantahin ko. Kapag may sakit ako, siya ang nagdadala sa akin sa* doctor. *Parati akong may* wall *na masasandalan sa kanya.*"

Chat Silayan agrees. Whenever she's asked to give a talk, she always shares how her father, the late, great actor Vic Silayan, played a big part in her life.

Mainstay

"One time," recalls the beauty queen-turned-actress, who's a mainstay of Channel 2's Saturday-afternoon youth program, "K2BU," "I was going out with a guy who was not liked by my family because he had vices, and I was only 17 or 18. My dad talked me out of it. With his soothing voice and all, I was sold on it."

Another time, when she was in third year college, she fell ill. Chat remembers her dad telling her, "Take care of yourself and your health." She now cherishes such short but meaningful talks.

She imparts the lessons she's learned from her dad to her kids now. "I tell them, *si* Lolo Vic, he was a very intelligent man, and very simple. Anyone could approach him. He could relate with everybody, whether they were rich or not.'"

She also teaches her kids compassion without prejudice, just as her dad had taught her.

It was also Vic who inspired Chat to become a beauty queen. "*Maliit pa lang ako*," she recalls grinning, "*tawag ng* daddy *ko sa akin*, Miss Philippines. *Nagkatotoo nga*. Before going to the Miss Universe pageant (where she was one of the runners-up), he told me, 'You're representing something like 40 million Filipinos, so smile a lot.' And his advice helped me a lot throughout the contest."

Joining show business was a different case, though. In fact, Chat had wanted to major in Mass Communications in college, but her dad made her take up Nutrition instead. "He was not happy with my decision to become an actor like him," she intimates. "But he gave me a few pointers and reminded me to always be sure of what I was doing."

Paul McCartney and Heather Mills marry before family and rock stars

McCARTNEY and Mills seal it with a kiss.

By Thomas Wagner

GLASLOUGH, Ireland—After weeks of building up intense media attention, former Beatle Paul McCartney and Heather Mills managed to get married in private inside a 17th-century church on the grounds of a remote Irish castle.

Frenzy

Despite all the frenzy, including noisy helicopters hovering overhead, the superstar and his fiance did what they wanted: tie the knot in front of 300 family and friends Tuesday afternoon, then treat them to a night of live music, champagne and vegetarian food.

As the newlyweds and their guests feasted on Indian delicacies in large tents on the Castle Leslie estate, McCartney's spokesman, Geoff Baker, issued a statement to the media and hundreds of fans waiting outside.

The bride, wearing a fitted ecru lace dress she designed herself, carried a bouquet of 11 pink McCartney roses—named for her new husband—and two peonies, Baker said. Sir McCartney was decked out in a brown, wool three-piece suit designed by Richard James of Britain.

Joyful and moving

"The ceremony was joyful and moving," Baker said. "Heather captured the hearts of the congregation when, overcome by the emotion of the occasion, she briefly faltered and wept tears of joy whilst making her vows."

Mills entered the ancient church to the strains of "Heather," a song McCartney wrote for his recent album. As the beaming pair walked back down the aisle, a wedding march McCartney wrote for the 1966 movie "The Family Way" was played on the organ, Baker said.

McCartney's brother, Mike, was best man. Among the 300 people in attendance were McCartney's children from his first marriage, Stella, Mary and James, and his stepdaughter, Heather. The rest of the guest list was kept under wraps.

Ringo Starr, the only other surviving Beatle, was seen being whisked through the gates to attend the ceremony at St. Salvator's chapel within the walls of the well-guarded estate.

Baker had confirmed earlier that Beatles producer George Martin and Pink Floyd frontman David Gilmour also would be there.

The large crowd outside could only guess when the ceremony—scheduled for 4 p.m. (1500 GMT)—began. The ringing of church bells more than an hour later indicated that McCartney and Mills had indeed tied the knot in the Protestant Church of Ireland service.

Double rainbow

A double rainbow appeared over the castle, and some people in the crowd outside called it a sign of the newlywed's fortune.

It wasn't known whether McCartney and Starr joined any of the several different bands that performed at the reception that followed the wedding.

Media interest had reached fever pitch as newspapers speculated about every detail, including a guest list that some said included rock veterans Elton John and Eric Clapton.

Many of the relatives and friends of McCartney flew commercial flights to local airports, then rode to the castle on a fleet of buses. Musicians Chrissie Hynde and Jools Holland, and former model Twiggy, arrived on a chartered flight. Starr flew in on his private jet.

For some of the younger local people waiting outside, the classic rockers were a bit of a mystery.

When a Mercedes with darkened windows moved through the front gate, a policeman turned to three girls, all under 10, and asked, "Did you see who that was?" He told them it was Starr, but their only reply was "Who's that?"

McCartney, 59, and Mills, 34, had tried to keep the location of their wedding a secret. But when word slipped out, they good-naturedly appeared outside the castle walls on Monday, speaking briefly to the crowd that had gathered but giving few details of the nuptials.

Vegetarian

Baker did confirm the menu would be strictly vegetarian. "This is being held by one of the world's most famous vegetarians," he said of McCartney. The singer's first wife, Linda, was an animal rights advocate and created a range of vegetarian foods.

Like most celebrity weddings, the location of their honeymoon was kept secret. Television news showed aerial footage of a flower-decked yacht moored to a specially built pier beside the estate's lake, which the newlyweds were to board.

The Daily Mail newspaper reported the couple would spend Tuesday night in the castle's Red Room, said to be haunted by former owner Sir Normal Leslie, who was killed on the battlefields of France in 1914.

McCartney and Mills met in 1999 at a charity function where she was raising money to oppose the use of land mines.

Mills, a model who lost a leg in a motorcycle accident and raises money for children disabled in war, was married briefly in 1989.

McCartney and his first wife were married for nearly 30 years before she died of breast cancer in 1998. They had three children of their own, and Linda had a daughter from an earlier marriage. *AP*

Paltrow's bare toes . . .

From p. F2

manage with their faces, let alone their feet." Paltrow's parents, actors Bruce Paltrow and Blythe Danner, were on hand to watch their daughter's performance in front of a packed house.

Disappointed

But the fans who queued outside the theater hoping to catch a glimpse of Paltrow herself were disappointed. She was ensconced in her dressing room well before the curtain went up.

Whatever the critics say, Paltrow's season at the Donmar Warehouse is already a guaranteed commercial success—the whole run was sold out weeks before the opening. *Reuters*

Madonna . . .

From p. F2

Steppenwolf Theater Company, and film actor Michael Lerner ("Barton Fink") among them.

Both actors acquit themselves well, even when (in Lerner's case) forced into some fairly embarrassing sexual antics. Playing a sexed-up younger couple who jointly put the make on Loren, Daniel Pino and Megan Dodds have energy to burn in roles that hardly warrant it. For the record, Dodds gets the lesbian kiss with Madonna that has sent the British press into a tailspin.

Near the play's close, the supporting characters fade away, leaving Loren without a husband, an income, or a job—three things that Madonna herself is hardly lacking.

One has to ask what prompted the star to take on this particular role, having been mentioned in recent years for a handful of London and New York plays, including "Closer," "As Bees In Honey Drown," and—pretty hard to imagine—Tennessee Williams's "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof."

Clunky ending

In "Up For Grabs," Madonna is trapped in the first act in a downmarket sex comedy, in the second act in some pretentious Faustian power play, with an amazingly clunky ending.

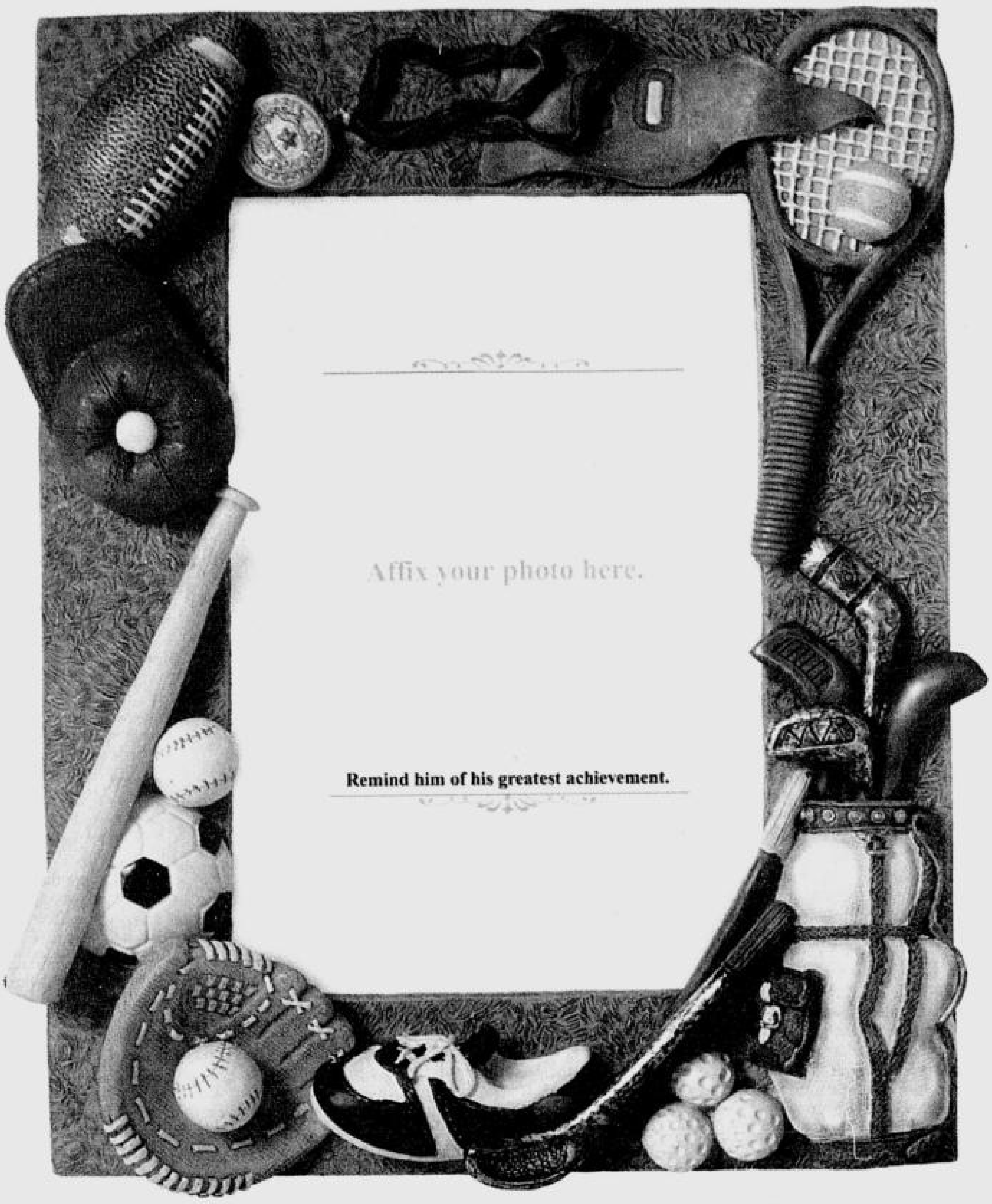
The final line, "I'll start again," leaves one wishing that she had.

At least the opening lifts the veil from a venture shrouded in secrecy ever since it was first announced, with a press blackout surrounding the show that was only lifted in recent days.

Among those finally free to speak was author Williamson, who told The Association Press that he was resigned to having his play come a distant second in PR terms to its leading player.

"It makes it a different kind of event," said Williamson of a level of star casting he had never anticipated. But, he added, "You can't have your cake and eat it, too."

"You'd have to be a pretty picky playwright," he said, "to say no to Madonna." *AP*



A salute to Dad, the world's greatest coach. Rustan's

A VICTORY TREAT FOR DAD AT RUSTAN'S

Whether you won or lost, he was always there to support you. When times were rough, he cheered you on. He reminded you to play fair. He taught you discipline, trained you for speed and fired up your ambition. On Father's Day, we're creating for him a special field of games and prizes for a most unforgettable event.

TEAM UP WITH DAD. WIN IN THE GAME ZONE.

Celebrate all the triumphs you shared with even bigger prizes. It's the grandest father-son (or father-daughter) event ever to be held at Rustan's. Here's how you can join.

Foot Daddy's shopping bill (with a little help from Mommy, of course) at Rustan's from June 14 to 16 and get a game card. No sweat because all it takes is P1,500 worth of shopping in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza or Alabang, or P1,000 in Rustan's Harrison Plaza or Cubao. Pick up the tab for Daddy's meal and get the same card. You can dine in any of these establishments from June 8 to 16: Jeepney Coffee Shop and Prince Albert Rotisserie at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Tin Hau, Tivoli Grill and Brasserie at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Friday's Glorietta II, and Outback Glorietta IV. Each game card is your pass to play five exciting games in the Father's Day Game Zone at any Rustan's department store in Metro Manila on June 15-16.

Look for the Game Marshal and present your card. At the end of each game, the Game Marshal will place a stamp on the box corresponding to the game that was played. Fill out the raffle stub completely and drop it at the Game Zone drop box before June 16.

Imagine the surprise on your Dad's face when you win any of the two prizes at the Raffle Draw: FREE overnight stay for two at the Mandarin Oriental or round of golf for two (2) at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club. So watch out for this draw to be held on June 19, 2002, at the Rustan's Head Office in Mandaluyong.

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He has inspired your successes and rewarded you for your achievements. Buy him a present at Rustan's and we'll give him something extra.

- FREE set of the White Moss Travel-Size Soap and Travel-Size Shampoo with a minimum P1,000 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of any combination of the Acca Kappa Cedro Line (Fragrance, Shaving Cream, After-Shave Cream, Shampoo, Soap).
- FREE special edition J. del Pozo travel calculator clock with a minimum P3,500 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of any assortment of J. del Pozo products.
- FREE 20-minute de-stress neck and back massage at the Essenses Treatment Room for Dad with a minimum P800 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of selected Essenses men's products from June 8-16, 2002 (This is consumable within two months after the end of the promo.)

Promos are valid for cash and charge purchases from June 8-30, 2002, unless specified otherwise, at Essenses in Rustan's Makati and Alabang.

HIT THE BULLSEYE AT THE COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES SECTION

He directed your aim in life. So set your sights on really great deals on gift ideas for your Dad.

- Pay only P2,400 each for as many value sets as you want with a minimum P1,500 net purchase of any Christian Dior item, provided all items are registered in a single receipt.
- Save P300 and pay only P2,800 for a 200 mL Eau Sauvage Cooling Effect.
- FREE summer bath towel with every purchase of a 100 mL Fahrenheit Summer EDT.
- FREE Higher Ancillaries multi-samples card with a purchase of any men's fragrance except 100 mL Fahrenheit Summer EDT (one multi-samples card per customer only).
- Get a Higher Value Set (50 mL EDT and key holder) for the same price as a regular 50 mL Higher EDT.
- Get a Fahrenheit Value Set (50 mL EDT, 50 mL Hair and Body Shampoo and 50 mL Deodorant Spray) for the same price as a regular 50 mL Fahrenheit EDT.

Promos are valid for cash and charge purchases from June 8-30, 2002, in all Rustan's department stores including Cebu.

GO FOR GOAL AT THE MEN'S DEPARTMENT

His objective is to make sure that you fulfill your dreams. Make it your mission to treat him on his day and gain these special extras on the way.

- FREE Oleg Cassini tank top with every purchase of an Oleg Cassini pajama or robe.
- FREE Oleg Cassini key holder with every purchase of an Oleg Cassini or MR accessory.
- 25% OFF on any 2-item purchase inclusive of a pair of shoes from Façonnable at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang
- 20% OFF on all Vincent Pradier shirts.
- 20% OFF with every purchase of a Zegna Sport shirt and pair of trousers at Rustan's Makati only.
- 20% OFF on selected Ermenegildo Zegna merchandise at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.
- Special offers on selected shoe purchases.
  - 15% OFF on (1) pair
  - 20% OFF on (2) pairs
  - 25% OFF on (3) or more pairs
- 20% OFF on selected Alfred Dunhill and Dunhill Sport merchandise at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Harrison Plaza.
- 20% OFF on selected Givenchy merchandise at Rustan's Makati
- FREE pair of Zegna Sport socks with every purchase of regular Zegna Sport shoes at Rustan's Makati.
- FREE pair of Ermenegildo Zegna socks with every purchase of regular Ermenegildo Zegna shoes at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.
- 20% OFF on all Goosey's shirts at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Cubao.
- FREE aluminum pen case with every purchase of selected desk and office accessories in all Rustan's department stores in Metro Manila.
- FREE tie clip with a minimum P1,000 net purchase of regular items.
- 20% OFF on any combination of selected Samsonite men's footwear and selected Samsonite Starck items at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.

Still don't know what to give him? Then score a Rustan's gift certificate for a winning Father's Day present. There's no better way to tell your Dad, thanks for being there.

For more information, please call the following Rustan's department stores:
Makati – 8133739
Shangri-La Plaza – 6334636-39
Alabang – 8505532/61/84
Harrison Plaza – 5211140-49
Cubao – 9112401

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2002. See poster and flyers for details.

Stan 'The Man' Lee still the idea machine behind 'Spider-Man'

By Anthony Breznican

SANTA MONICA, California--Spider-Man creator Stan Lee's philosophy can be summed up in one word: Excelsior!

Motto

The comic book scribe adopted that grandiose way of saying "onward and upward" as his motto during his lengthy—and legendary—tenure at Marvel Comics.

With the film version of "Spider-Man," the term is more appropriate than ever—but it probably deserves a few more exclamation points.

"People always ask me, 'Why don't you retire?'" says the 79-year-old Lee, who has an off-center widow's peak, salt-and-pepper mustache and sparkly eyes. "But when you retire what do you do? You say, 'At last I can do all the things I've wanted to do.'"

Lee grins broadly.

"Well, I'm ALREADY doing the things I always wanted to do. Why would I stop?"

Besides serving as executive producer of "Spider-Man," Lee has consulted on other upcoming films based on his characters, including "The Hulk" and "Daredevil," along with a sequel to the blockbuster "X-Men."

Autobiography

Lee also is developing original characters and concepts at his new production company, POW! Entertainment; has written a soon-to-be published autobiography; and appears in the interview DVD "Stan Lee's Mutants, Monsters and Marvels."

Lee speaks about his work with boundless enthusiasm. If life were a comic, his dialogue would be written not in a bubble but a yellow star burst, the kind reserved for words such as "KaBOOM!" and "BLAMMO!"

He delights in movies, watching one every night at dinner with Joan, his wife of 54 years. His Santa Monica office would thrill any little boy, filled with racks of colorful comic books. A portrait of the snarling, green Incredible Hulk glowers from one wall, and Lee's desk is guarded by a life-size statue of Spider-Man, striking a dramatic, web-slinging pose.

Lee is chairman emeritus of Marvel Comics, but it's mostly an honorary title. He remains an idol among older fans who remember the ink-and-paint heroes he created, many of them with artist Jack Kirby. Younger admirers know him best as Stan "The Man" Lee, narrator of cartoons and video games based on his Marvel creations.

"Stan became an ambassador of comics to the mainstream," said "Clerks" director Kevin Smith, a comics fan and friend of Lee's who conducted the interviews on the DVD "Mutants, Monsters and Marvels." "He's the face behind comics to people who don't read or identify with them. He took superheroes public."

Upcoming projects

Among Lee's upcoming projects is the TV show "Stripperella," a comedy cartoon with Pamela Anderson voicing a character who's an exotic dancer by night and a superhero by day.

After decades of writing heroic melodrama, Lee said he's happy to be writing something that's strictly for laughs.

LEE'S desk is guarded by a life-size statue of Spider-Man

He never saw a future in comics during his younger years. He started as a writer at Timely Comics, which later became Marvel, when he was 17. Back then, there was more romance, comedy and Westerns in comic books than superheroism.

His cousin-in-law, Martin Goodman, was the publisher and Lee was looking for a break from a number of small-time jobs: theater usher, sandwich delivery boy, office clerk at "the world's second-largest trouser manufacturer."

"When I got into comics, nobody, NOBODY had any respect for them," Lee recalls. He imagined he would someday write "The Great American Novel," and didn't want to associate his real name--Stanley Martin Leiber--with "these silly little books."

So he became Stan Lee.

The popularity of "Batman"

STAN/ p. F6

Shows viewers want to see on local TV

By Noelani Torre

MOST people aren't satisfied with what local television has to offer. However, since more and more viewers are hooking up to cable TV, they just content themselves with a grumble or two and then change the channel. And those who do complain and try to do something about it are soon forced to give up.

Vaudeville roots

Let's face it, local TV hasn't changed much. You still have your variety show with its vaudeville roots; your gossipy show biz program that is rooted in vulgar curiosity; your morning, afternoon and evening telenovela.

We are being served the same, old fare, and though viewers are content with mere channel switching most of the time, they still hold strong opinions on the subject.

We recently asked several viewers what new shows they wanted to see on local TV. They gave varying responses:

On the arts

"*Marami pang mga tao ang hindi marunong mag-*appreciate *ng* art—music, visual arts, theater, etc. *Siguro dahil na rin hindi sila* exposed *dito. Mas marami pa akong nakikitang* talk shows *na puro tsismis tungkol sa* show biz *lang ang laman. Mas kilala pa ng tao ang* Salbakuta *kaysa sa mga* national artists *natin.*

"*Dapat magkaroon ng* shows on the arts, featuring artists on the national and international scene, so that viewers will not remain ignorant at *para ma-*improve *ang kanilang* taste."*—Jeremy Guevarra,17.*

Relevant issues

"I would like to see a Filipino talk show that is the equal of Oprah's because most of the shows we have here are all about the latest *tsismis*. I would like to see shows that tackle relevant issues, like those concerning women and children, for example. And can they please get rid of those B-movies that they keep featuring? They are not reflections, but distortions of our society."*—Roxanne Rosquita, 18.*

Informative

"Why don't we have a show like 'Oprah'? It's very informative and educational and I think we need a show like that on local TV. A show that discusses things like health issues—what food is good for you, how to prevent cancer, etc. When Oprah gets sentimental, like when she's bringing a family back together, it's not fake.

"I'm sick and tired of the shows we have that don't talk about anything but which show biz personality has done something scandalous, and things like that. I think Julie Yap-Daza's show is a bit like the one I want to see, but sometimes she tends to be too *sosyal.*'"*—Joy Biongan, 26.*

Participation

"Filipino version *sana ng* 'Blues Clues,' *isang* children's show. *Kinakausap kasi nila talaga ang mga* kids *at may* participation *lagi yung mga bata. Naii-* stimulate *silang mag isip. Hindi katulad ng mga* children's shows *natin na puro* lecture *lang yung ginagawa, puro* spoon-feeding.

"*Mas maganda sana kung mag gano'ng klaseng* Filipino children's show, *para hindi naman aasa yung mga bata sa* imported shows."*—Sofia Hopper, 19.*

Social awareness

"I'd like to replace those politically-oriented shows with programs that promote social awareness. I don't like those political shows that pretend to discuss an issue objectively but are actually very biased. They don't make things clearer, *iiwanan ka pang nakabitin sa ere.*

"So, replace them with programs that deal with topics that are socially relevant, like subjects for kids—for example, children's rights. Most children don't know their rights and they suffer as a result."*—Lorelei Jacinto, 17.*

Animals

"*Gusto kong makakita ng mga* shows *na katulad ng mga fini-*feature *sa* Animal Planet, National Geographic *at* Discovery channels. *Mahilig kasi ako sa mga* animals, *at lalo na sa* reptiles. Interesting *sila.*

"*Gusto ko ring makakita ng mga* shows *na may human* interest, *yung mga nagfi-*feature *ng iba't-ibang mga* tribes *at pinapakita kung ano ang* lifestyle *nila.* Educational *yun. Sa* local channels *kasi puro* commercials *at mga* telenovela. *Wala kang matututunan."—Hercules Santiago, 29.*

DVD rentals lift Hollywood's second-quarter outlook

NEW YORK--Hollywood Entertainment Corp. on Monday said it expects its second-quarter results to beat forecasts and full-year results to meet or beat estimates as the No. 2 US video rental chain benefited from growing demand for DVD and video games.

Average estimate

Hollywood said it now sees second-quarter earnings of 24 cents to 26 cents a share before special items, compared with the analysts' average estimate of 21 cents compiled by research firm Thomson Financial/First Call. It earned 8 cents in the year-earlier period.

The Portland, Oregon-based company, which runs 1,800 Hollywood Video stores, also said it sees its full-year 2002 earnings to be in the range of 25721.10 to 25721.14 a share before one-time charges. The First Call consensus view is 25721.10.

Shares rose 5.2 percent, or 99 cents, to 257220.04 in midday Nasdaq trade. The stock is up about 40 percent since the beginning of the year, outperforming shares of industry leader Blockbuster Inc., which are up 20 percent over that same period.

"This marks the fifth consecutive quarter we continue to see improvements in our operating performance," Hollywood Chief Executive Mark Wattles said in a statement.

Key indicator

Hollywood said it expects sales at stores open at least a year, a key indicator of retail performance, to increase at least 6 percent in the second quarter--double its previous estimate of a rise of at least 3 percent.

DVDs, or digital versatile discs, have been a huge boon to video rental chains, as they carry about an 8 percent higher profit margin than traditional VHS videocassettes. Consumers have embraced the new format, which offers clearer sound and crisper pictures, plus special features like instant access to sections of movies or music. One in every four US homes now owns a DVD console, according to industry trade group the Video Software Dealers Association.

Blockbuster, which runs 8,000 stores, has seen its results soar on the DVD craze. The Dallas-based company late last month blew past analysts' expectations, posting a 42 percent jump in first-quarter earnings before charges. Rentals of the shiny discs more than doubled from a year earlier, the company said.

No. 3 video chain Movie Gallery Inc., which operates stores mainly in rural and secondary markets, recently boosted its first-quarter pro forma earnings forecast after posting a better-than-expected rise in sales at its stores open at least a year.

Blockbuster stock climbed 30 cents, or 1 percent, to 257229.30 on the New York Stock Exchange, while shares of Dothan, Alabama-based Movie Gallery rose 49 cents, or 2.5 percent, to 257219.98 on the Nasdaq.

Reuters

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 15 - JUNE 21

[illegible]

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmayts 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Mahal kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Boiling Point*	8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Women of . . . *The Games* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Versace* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Pamela Anderson*
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office *Playing God* 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Nuremberg* (Part II) 11:00 Road Trip 11:30 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank *Hollywood's Hottest Couples* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Rob Lowe* 10:00 E! Goes to War *Guadalcanal Diary*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best *Intersection* 10:30 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Viva's Hot Hits! 8:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:30 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *H2O*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 NBI Files	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 PBA Games 10:00 The Weakest Link 11:00 News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:00 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Park City*
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Godzilla crosses from kitsch to high art at upscale Japanese museum

FILM fan has a grand time squeezing into a rubbery green Godzilla suit.

By Hans Greimel

KAWASAKI, Japan—Don't be fooled by the zippered-up lizard suit, plastic-model skylines and stock footage of crowds fleeing in terror when Godzilla smashes into town.

Threshold

Japan's favorite nuclear-powered monster has finally crossed the threshold from campy kitsch to high art—at least according to a Japanese museum drawing thousands with its Godzilla-as-art exhibit.

"There are people who look at Godzilla and laugh. But really this is a part of Japanese culture and history," said Hiroshi Ohsugi, curator at the Taro Okamoto Museum of Art in the Tokyo suburb of Kawasaki, one city not destroyed in 25 films of Godzilla rampages.

"Since Godzilla," on view through July 28, is the world's first art show looking at Godzilla as a cultural phenomenon, not just a pop icon of lowbrow thrills, Ohsugi said.

Packed with rubbery green Godzilla suits used in several movies, as well as model buildings, props, still photos and film clips, the exhibit chronicles Godzilla as a looking glass on Japanese society over the last half century.

Issues

Nuclear bombs, rapid economic growth, space travel, the Cold War, pollution and the dangers of biotechnology are just some of the issues touched upon.

The opening hall takes visitors back to 1954, when the original grainy black-and-white "Godzilla" hit the screens.

Back then, the monster's origins in a hydrogen-bomb test evoked special terror for a nation still traumatized by the atomic attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Impact was heightened that year by a US nuclear test in the Pacific that showered a nearby Japanese fishing boat with radioactive ash.

Pitted pieces of gray fallout, on display solemnly encased in glass, set an immediate somber tone at the exhibit, as does a blood-red banner of a mushroom cloud enshroud-

GODZILLA/ p. F7

Stan 'The Man' Lee still the idea machine behind 'Spider-Man'

From p. F4

and "Superman" at rival DC Comics had Goodman looking for some fresh superheros of his own. Lee came up with the idea for a family of do-gooders, all with varying abilities. He called them "The Fantastic Four," and they became a fast seller.

Runaway hit

Goodman wanted more, so Lee took the typical villainous monster—and made him the hero. The result was "The Incredible Hulk," another runaway hit.

In 1962, Lee, seeking inspiration everywhere, spotted a fly on his wall that set him thinking: How about a hero who could crawl on walls?

"The next thing I needed was a name," Lee says. "Crawl-Man? Nah, that didn't have it. Insect-Man? I ran down the list. Mosquito-Man, Beetle-Man, Fly-Man. Then I hit on Spider-Man . . . That was it!"

He discussed the idea with artist Steve Ditko, who set to work on some concept drawings.

"Steve is the guy who designed Spider-Man and gave him so much of that eerie spidery feeling," Lee says.

But Lee wanted his hero to be different from others in more ways than just his kind of superpower.

He made Spider-Man's alter ego, Peter Parker, a teen-ager, an orphan, someone with financial problems, dating problems and general "normal" woes that contrasted with his cosmic clashes with the villainous Green Goblin and Doctor Octopus.

"I was told in chapter and verse by my publisher that it was the worst idea he'd ever heard," Lee recalls. "'People hate spiders,' he said. 'Teen-agers can only be sidekicks.' Then when I told him that I wanted Peter Parker to have lots of problems and worries and be unsure of himself, he said, 'It's obvious you have no conception of what a hero really is.'"

Last issue

Goodman eventually agreed to let Lee and Ditko slip the adventures of Spider-Man into the last issue of a "Twilight Zone"-style comic book called "Amazing Adult Fantasy" that was closing because of poor sales.

Months later, sales figures revealed the edition was a surprise top seller.

"The publisher came back to me and said, 'Stan, you remember that character that we both liked? Why don't we make a series out of him?'"

An army of damaged heroes followed, the heart-ailing Iron Man, whose metal suit kept him alive; the blind Daredevil; the lonesome, hammer-wielding god Thor; the psychedelic Dr. Strange; and the alienated alien Silver Surfer, who protected the Earth from galactic villains even though humans hated and feared him.

That theme even became a metaphor for racism in the "X-Men" stories, about mutated humans reviled by normal society because they were different.

By far, Spider-Man is his most enduring creation. Lee is as synonymous with his web-spinning concept as Walt Disney is to Mickey Mouse, or George Lucas to Darth Vader.

Failure

He took a serious financial loss after the failure last year of his Internet company, Stan Lee Media, and his business partners were indicted in a check-kiting scheme. Lee, who focused only on the creative side of the enterprise, was not charged with any wrongdoing.

These days, he still writes the Spider-Man newspaper strip, and is finishing a series with former rival DC Comics called "Just Imagine Stan Lee Creating . . ." in which he rewrites the origins of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and other DC heroes.

Director Sam Raimi even gave him a cameo appearance in the new "Spider-Man" film—rescuing a little girl during the Green Goblin's attack on Times Square.

"After we shot this scene with all of us running, I said, 'Sam, that isn't right. I shouldn't leave that poor little girl and go running for my life. I'm going to carry her with me.'"

For once, Stan Lee got to play the hero. *AP*

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'Enough' is sufficiently entertaining

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—If you saw "Sleeping With the Enemy," you may have seen enough of "Enough."

Wife

The 1991 movie starred Julia Roberts as the wife of a wealthy, abusive husband who flees her palatial Los Angeles home, moves to a small town in the Midwest, and changes her name and her looks. And yet, he hunts her down and tries to kill her.

"Enough" stars Jennifer Lopez as the wife of a wealthy, abusive husband who flees her palatial Los Angeles home, moves to a small town in the Midwest, and changes her name and her looks. He hunts her down and tries to kill her, too.

The main variable here is that Lopez's character, Slim, is a mother, and she grabs the couple's young daughter, Gracie (Tessa Allen), on her way out the door.

Say what you will about J.Lo—that she can't sing, that she's ubiquitous. The woman has an undeniable presence. And watching her transform herself from pampered, betrayed housewife to one-woman wrecking machine makes "Enough" function on a visceral, you-go-girl level.

The third act—in which she exacts her revenge with the elaborate skill of James Bond and the brute strength of Rocky Balboa—is pretty ridiculous if you stop to think about it. But it's entertaining enough that it almost makes up for the inconsistencies in plot and character development that preceded it.

Romantic comedy

For a thriller, the movie begins more like a romantic comedy, with Slim and Mitch (Billy Campbell of "Once and Again") meeting at the diner where she's a waitress, and title cards like "How they met" and "Conquering hero" connecting their early stages.

In no time, they've fallen in love, gotten married, moved into a beautiful house together and had a baby. Mitch, a contractor, seems like the ideal husband, if a bit distant at times.

Then Slim discovers Mitch is having an affair, and when she confronts him, his personality changes completely. He becomes so cold-hearted and cruel so abruptly, it's difficult to accept—almost comic.

The script from Nicholas Kazan explains his behavior with vague throwaway lines such as: "I am and always will be a person who gets what he wants" and "If I can't have you, nobody else will."

Slim cooks up a scheme to escape with the help of Ginny (Juliette Lewis), a waitress at the diner; Phil (Christopher Maher), who's a father figure in the absence of her real dad; and ex-boyfriend Joe (Dan Futterman), who provides refuge at his home in Seattle.

Repetitive

Michael Apted, who directed the most recent Bond movie, "The World Is Not Enough," and another female empowerment movie, "Coal Miner's Daughter," knows how to keep the pace moving during the action sequences. But the midsection of the film—the cat-and-mouse chase, with its requisite cheap scares—gets a bit repetitive.

The plot problems pop up as Slim and Gracie move from city to city. For a contractor, Mitch has the computer skills of a sophisticated hacker; he immediately freezes Slim's access to her cash and credit, and he tracks her moves effortlessly, with a squad of thugs in every city available to pounce on her and the little girl.

Mitch even has a police officer buddy at his disposal ("ER's" Noah Wyle, like Campbell, playing against type) who tries to ram Slim's car from behind, even though Gracie is sitting in the back seat. Um, isn't he supposed to bring the girl back . . . alive?

As if Gracie hasn't been through enough, Slim sends her away for a month to stay with Ginny and her two kids while she prepares for a showdown with Mitch. She learns Krav Maga—a fighting form originally developed for women in the Israeli army—and her eyeliner and lip gloss are perfect during every punch and kick.

"Enough," a Columbia Pictures release, runs 114 minutes. Two stars (out of four).

AP

LOPEZ. Undeniable presence.

Godzilla crosses from kitsch to high art . . .

From p. F6

ing an entire wall.

The early films were likewise angry and dark, allegories of a war-battered nation still rebuilding—"King Kong vs. Godzilla" was a political shot at Japan's postwar US occupiers. But that message faded as economic revival blotted out memories of defeat.

During the late 1950s and 1960s, professional wrestlers zipped up in monster suits to spice up the on-screen wrangling, and to tap the popularity of professional wrestling that dominated programming on the nation's newly purchased TV sets.

Pollution

Worries about pollution took center stage in the 1970s, and so did a new Godzilla foe: Hedora, or the Sludge Monster, a toxin-gobbling, shape-shifting blob. Godzilla defeated it, just as he did a genetically engineered version of himself crossed with a rose plant—yes, a rose plant—in 1989's "Godzilla vs. Biollante."

The exhibit evokes mixed reactions, with one Godzilla fan who strolled the aisles calling it "a little embarrassing." But even those who grew up with the fire-breathing monster walked away with a new perspective on the lizard king.

"I didn't know there were so many social issues at play," said 27-year-old Reiko Watabe. "This is the first time I heard the whole Godzilla story."

Nowadays, Godzilla lashes out at the modern garish buildings that epitomize Japan's aesthetically numbing dash into post-industrialism.

And the legend lives on with Godzilla's creator, Toho Co., churning out a new creature feature every December in what's become a Japanese New Year's tradition.

Permanent collection

Ohsugi defended Godzilla's inclusion in his museum, which houses the permanent collection of famed Japanese modern artist Taro Okamoto, because he says Godzilla, like all true art, is a "kind of mirror" on society.

He also compared Godzilla's legacy to that of Japan's now priceless woodblock prints, which were run off hundreds at a time during the feudal era and dismissed then as mere tourist trinkets.

"In 100 years, maybe this, too, will be highly esteemed as art. But I just couldn't wait that long," said Ohsugi.

The exhibit is drawing up to 1,000 people a day—about double the museum's normal attendance.

"We are extremely proud," Toho producer Shogo Tomiyama said. "But whether Godzilla is true art or not, I don't know. Everybody has a different definition of that."

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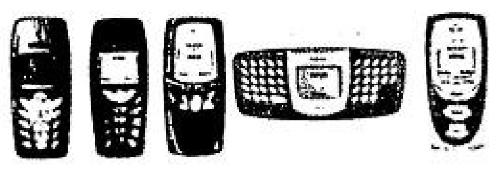

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BROSNAN plays James Bond, king of secret agents, in 007's 20th big-screen adventure.

Hollywood gets renewed license to spy

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—There's nothing covert about Hollywood's intrigue with secret agents this year. The industry has spies piled sky high in every imaginable genre, from straight espionage adventures to action comedies to spoofs.

At least a dozen cloak-and-dagger flicks are hitting theaters, offering pint-sized operatives, heroic paper-pushers, big-toothed agents and the king of spies, James Bond, returning for his 20th big-screen adventure.

Heightened security

The movies all were essentially finished before Sept. 11, but happen to come at a time of heightened scrutiny of real intelligence agencies.

Arriving last week were "The Sum of All Fears," starring Ben Affleck as Tom Clancy's CIA desk jockey Jack Ryan, and "Undercover Brother," a parody of '70s "blaxploitation" movies with Eddie Griffin as an Afro-headed agent for a clandestine outfit called the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.H.O.O.D.

Next up is "Bad Company," a comic action tale featuring Anthony Hopkins as a CIA honcho and Chris Rock as a street hustler recruited to replace his slain twin brother, a master spy. Close on its heels is "The Bourne Identity," an adaptation of Robert Ludlum's best seller with Matt Damon as an amnesiac agent.

World of deception

"I guess there's just something inherently fascinating about that world of deception. There's something more sexy about that world than our own lives," said Damon.

"That grandeur of seeing your protagonist in a tuxedo in Switzerland, this world that we're never, ever going to see up close and that probably doesn't exist, anyway."

Spies have been a staple since the early days of cinema. The misadventures of World War I German spy Mata Hari were depicted on film in the silent era and were most famously captured in 1931 with Greta Garbo in

HOLLYWOOD/ p. G2

HOPKINS. Cast as a CIA honcho in "Bad Company."

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Hollywood gets renewed license to spy

AFFLECK. As CIA operative Jack Ryan in "The Sum of All Fears."

From p. G1

the title role.

Alfred Hitchcock crafted some of the most memorable spy tales, including "The 39 Steps," "The Lady Vanishes" and "Notorious." "Dr. No" in 1962 established the James Bond franchise, opening the door for other espionage serials, among them Dean Martin's Matt Helm movies and James Coburn's "Our Man Flint" and "In Like Flint."

The George Smiley books and other spy novels of John Le Carre have been a steady source of films and TV miniseries, including "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold," "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy," "The Little Drummer Girl" and last year's "The Tailor of Panama."

Spies

"They're good entertainment. People are fascinated with spies," said Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of "Bad Company," whose previous espionage outings include "Enemy of the State." "There are people who really put their lives at risk for what they believe in, and audiences have always been interested in that."

The Bond films, based on Ian Fleming's books, have been the most durable of Hollywood's covert operations, the franchise surviving 40 years and periodic makeovers as new actors took on the role (after Sean Connery came George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and current 007 Pierce Brosnan, now in his fourth film).

Brosnan, who starred as an opportunistic, anti-Bond sort of spy in "The Tailor of Panama," returns this fall in "Die Another Day," co-starring Halle Berry as the debonair agent's latest love interest and Rick Yune as a North Korean villain.

Among other upcoming spy tales:—"Austin Powers in Goldmember": Hollywood's most successful spy spoof is back for its third installment. Mike Myers wears the bad dental work again as Austin and plays a new villain, Goldmember.

Dangerous mission

—"XXX." Vin Diesel stars as an extreme-sports star recruited by a National Security Agency operative (Samuel L. Jackson) to take on a dangerous mission.

—"Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams." The sister and brother junior agents take on rival child spies in the sequel to last year's surprise family hit.

—"The Tuxedo." In his latest action comedy, Jackie Chan plays a chauffeur who is transformed into a super agent when he puts on his employer's magical formal wear.

—"Ecks Vs. Sever." "Spy Kids" co-star Antonio Banderas plays an ex-FBI agent on the trail of a dangerous operative (Lucy Liu).

—"I Spy." Eddie Murphy is a cocky boxer teamed with a secret agent (Owen Wilson) hunting down an arms dealer in a big-screen adaptation of the 1960s TV show.

—"The Recruit." Al Pacino plays a CIA boss dealing with a new recruit (Colin Farrell) at the agency's training ground, "The Farm."

That slate shows "there's many different ways to tell a story using that world," said Affleck, whose "The Sum of All Fears" debuted as last weekend's No. 1 film. "It's an enduring genre that kind of feeds into that fantasy life we all have, whether you're an actor or postal-service worker, where you think, wouldn't it be fun if I was really a spy?"

Comedy

The tradition of spy spoofs includes the 1960s TV series "Get Smart" and the 1984 comedy "Top Secret!" from the makers of "Airplane!" Even Arnold Schwarzenegger and James Cameron's spy hit, "True Lies," poked fun at the genre's conventions while embracing its over-the-top action and intrigue.

"To spoof something, you have to have something out there in the zeitgeist everybody can relate to," said John Ridley, who created "Undercover Brother" as an Internet cartoon and co-wrote the movie screenplay with Michael McCullers, Myers' collaborator on the second and third "Austin Powers" films. "When you see so many spy films out there, they start to have their own cliches, which are easier to make fun of.

"How come James Bond always happens to get out of these situations? Why do they always give a demonstration of just the exact gadget he's going to need later? How come villains take so much time explaining what they're going to do as they're about to kill him? The fun is in turning all that on its ear." *AP*

CHAN. From chauffeur to super agent in "The Tuxedo."

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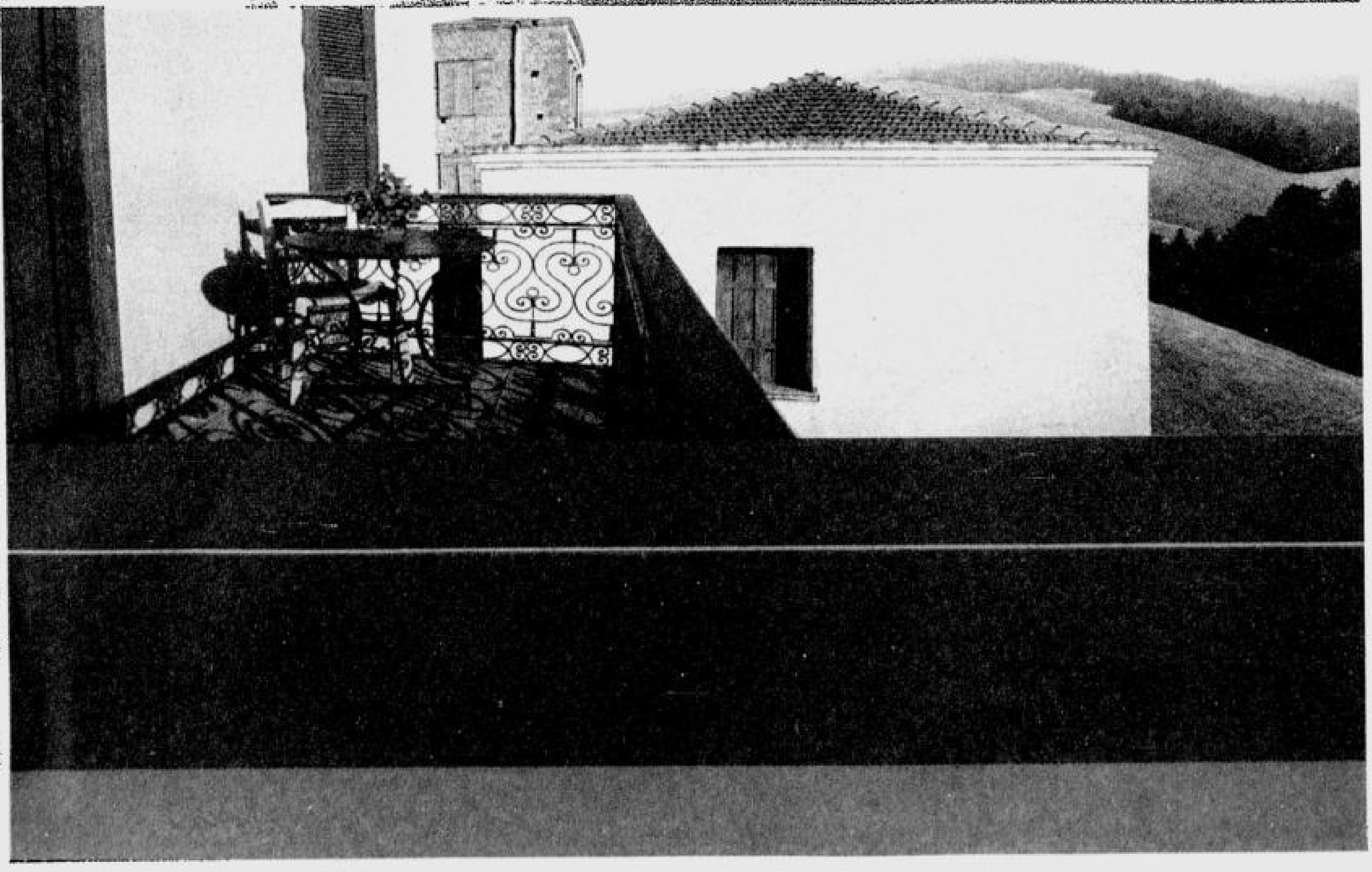

PHSA alumni . . .

From p. G3

beauty contests isn't exactly one of the school's goals for its graduates, we must also remember that she did win the award for Miss Talent, impressing the judges with her drawing skills.

Ballet major

Other PHSA alumni who are performing with distinction are theater arts major Nick Pichay, ballet major Nona Garcia (now in the visual arts, grand prize winner in the 2000 Philip Morris Asian Art Competition), and visual arts major Gerardo Leonardo, whose "Balanghay" can now be seen at Fort Bonifacio.

The PHSA has many more graduates who are fast becoming artists to be reckoned with in their chosen fields, and there just isn't enough space here to list them all. But the school itself insists that fame isn't everything, and it also honors its graduates who are working quietly in cultural NGOs, teaching art to school children, etc.

So, yes, there are PHSA alumni out there, and the sad fact that a great many of them are based in other countries is due to the sadder fact that, back home, they're just not getting the attention and the applause that they need and deserve.

PHSA alumni are exceptional achievers in the arts

By Noelani Torre

RED. Cannes winner.

ARRIETA. Respected pianist.

ALAGAO. Beauty queen.

THE PHILIPPINE High School for the Arts (PHSA) is the only arts-oriented secondary school in the country. Despite this singularity, the institution is not quite as well-known and valued as it should be, mainly because of its lack of support from the population at large.

Distrust

The ordinary Filipino usually holds a distrust for anything and anybody "artistic." Artists are sometimes thought of as no better than con men who fob off worthless creations on an ignorant and unsuspecting public, or are considered to be strange creatures from another plane of existence altogether. Moreover, art is generally thought of as something that belongs to the province of the elite, something that an ordinary person can't hope to understand or appreciate. For most Filipinos, art is an intimidating subject and at times even an unimportant one.

Not so long ago, there was talk about slashing the PHSA's budget and of totally closing down the school. One government official was said to have questioned the reason for its existence. Despite his high office, like a great number of Filipinos, he was skeptical about the role of art in nation-building.

Besides, he asked, who are the graduates of the PHSA? Where are the future artists and cultural leaders?

Graduates

It was a good thing that the official didn't get support for his proposals, for it would have been a shame for the school to be closed just because of one person's ignorance. The graduates of the PHSA are out there, and with the school celebrating its Silver Anniversary this year, we thought it would be a good idea for us to find them.

The oldest PHSA alumni are still relatively young. The school having been established only in 1977, its earliest products are still in their 30s with some pushing 40. As such, the following PHSA alumni who have already succeeded in their chosen art fields still have long productive years ahead of them:

One of those who have made waves recently is experiemental filmmaker Raymond Red, who majored in visual arts at the PHSA and belonged to one of the first batches. He is the first Filipino ever to have won the much-coveted Palme d'Or Award for Best Short Film, at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival.

"Anino," his award-winning work, reflects Red's deeply-felt social conscience and the prevalent philosophical strain in most of his works. Starring Ronnie Lazaro, Eddie Garcia and John Arcilla, "Anino" is powerful, stylish and moving, and the grand jury at Cannes obviously thought that was a winning combination.

Aside from his short films on super 8mm and 16mm formats, Red has also made two full-length features, "Bayani" and "Sakay." The latter was a Philippine entry to the Tokyo Film Festival in 1996.

Full-length feature

John Red a.k.a. Juan Pula is another PHSA alumnus (visual arts) involved in filmmaking. His works won the '92 and '93 Urian Award for Best Short Film and his latest movie is "Utang ni Tatang," a full-length feature for World Arts Cinema. Starring Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Mylene Dizon and Ronnie Lazaro, it is an official entry to this year's Manila Film Festival.

Rowena Arrieta, music major, is considered one of the few truly exceptional Filipino pianists. Highly respected and approaching music institution-dom, she is an international concert pianist and also a New York-based music instructor.

Other music alumni of the PHSA who have made names for themselves are fellow-pianists Greg Zuniega and Albert Tiu. Zuniega graduated valedictorian from PHSA, studied at the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory, and completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music (RCM), London.

He was awarded the Tagore Gold Medal by HRH Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, for being an outstanding graduate of the RCM. He also co-founded the Battig Trio along with violinist Arturo Molina and cellist Wilfredo Pasamba.

After the PHSA, Albert Tiu proceeded to the Juilliard School, where he was a student of Jerome Lowenthal. He also studied with Michael Lewin at the Boston Conservatory and at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Awards

He has won several awards, including first prize in the UNISA International Piano Competition and the Juilliard William Petschek Award. In 1996, he won the Juilliard Gina Bachauer Piano Competition and the Chopin prize.

Alternative music artist Grace Nono was a theater arts major at the PHSA. Her fusion of ethnic and pop music is distinctive and recognizably her own. A recent album, "Isang Buhay One Life" (BMG Records) won eight major critical and technical awards in the '98 Katha Awards.

Former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe and fashion model Nina Ricci Alagao was a visual arts major at the PHSA, and though winning

PHSA/ p.G2

Night of acoustic music at Tapika

By Remy M. Umerez

THERE is more to the good food that Tapika Restaurant on 220 Katipunan Road, Blue Ridge (tel. no. 647-8033) offers. Six days a week at the popular venue are acoustic nights.

It is not surprising that this form of entertainment has found its way to Tapika. Tess Cruz, a business partner, believes that food and the right kind of music blend well. A first-time restaurateur, she knows whereof she speaks when it comes to music, having been connected with the recording industry for almost two decades.

Good following

One music artist who enjoys a good following at Tapika is J. Paolo V. Santos. He performs every Friday.

After finishing high school, he wanted to go to the Conservatory of Music but was persuaded by his family to take up BS Economics. He followed this up with a fellowship in international relations in Geneva, Switzerland, hoping it would equip him for international economic practice.

His love for music prevailed, however. He taught himself how to play the guitar.

It was only two years ago that Paolo decided to sing professionally. His well-controlled, full-toned falsetto voice can do a Patti Austin or Vanessa Williams, and this bonus act has earned him a steady following.

Passion

He is singled out for the passion of his performance, his improvisations, and his sense of humor.

His repertoire includes the songs of James Taylor, Kenny Loggins, Kenny Rankin and Stephen Bishop.

Paolo has five other gigs elsewhere to fill up his week. His free time is devoted to special engagements like weddings and small concerts.

Paolo also hosts a radio program (89.1 FM) where he familiarizes his listeners with modern-day songwriters by performing their songs.

He hopes to cut an album soon.

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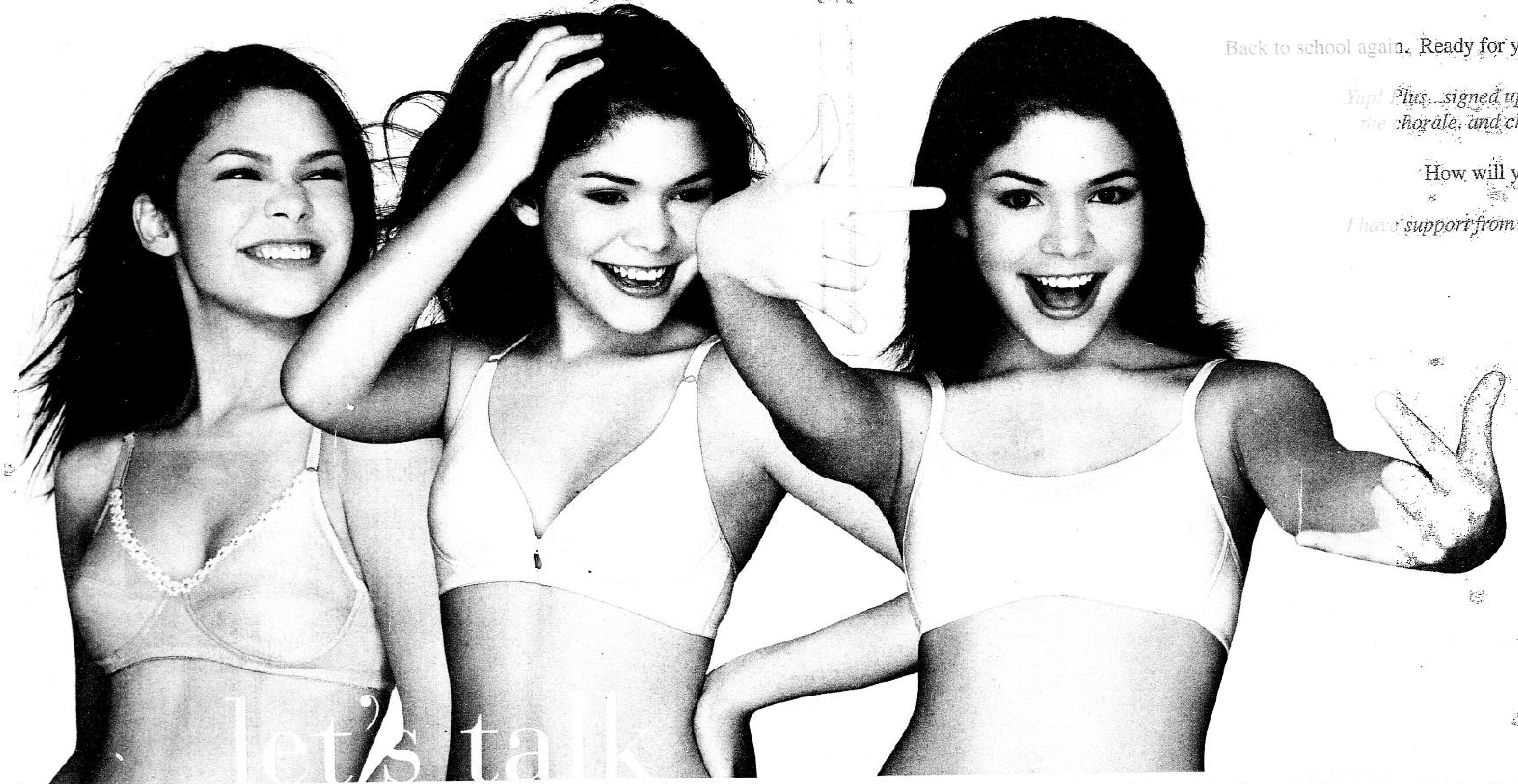

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SATURDAY*Special*

Harrison Ford awaits next big-screen adventure

By Steve Gorman

FORD. Set to play Indiana Jones for the fourth time.

LOS ANGELES—More than 20 years after seizing the Lost Ark from the clutches of Nazi agents, Harrison Ford may be pushing 60 but Indiana Jones is ready to dust off his fedora and come out of retirement.

Deal

Oscar-nominated writer and director Frank Darabont is near a deal to write a fourth "Indiana Jones" movie, with Ford set to return as the bullwhip-cracking archeologist, a spokesman for director Steven Spielberg said recently.

According to Daily Variety, the film is aimed for a July 4, 2005 release from Paramount Pictures, the studio owned by Viacom Inc. That would come just nine days shy of Ford's 63rd birthday.

A spokeswoman for Paramount confirmed a deal with Darabont was imminent but said a time frame for the picture remained uncertain. "I think until we have a screenplay, but it's premature to discuss a release date," she said.

Ford agreed with Spielberg and producer George Lucas of "Star Wars" fame

HARRISON/ p. H2

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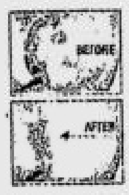

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'Star for a Night' encounters some problems

TALENT show host Regine Velasquez.

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER the first monthly semi-finals of "Star For A Night," we've continued to view the weekly talent search hosted by Regine Velasquez, but have been bothered by the creeping suspicion that the quality of contestants in the show is going down. But we didn't want to come to any hasty conclusions, so we refrained from making any comments until we caught the program's second monthly semi-finals two Saturdays ago.

Lower level

After watching that telecast, we realized that we really had cause to be concerned. The level of performance of some of the weekly finalists who competed for top monthly honors really was lower than that which was collectively turned in by the second batch of four weekly winners.

What's going on here? Did the show start off with a big bang by fielding its very best auditionees, leaving the runners-up for the coming months? Whatever the reason, it looks like the talent search is having some trouble attracting the really outstanding amateur singers around.

Clearly, something has to be done to remedy this situation. Perhaps the show shouldn't wait for auditionees to come to it, but go out on a *real* talent search by visiting sing-along and videoke bars, music conservatories on campuses, venues where choral groups rehearse, etc.

From our own auditions for musical-theater productions, we know that there are really exceptional singing talents out there, just waiting to be discovered. The big question is, how can outstanding talents like them be persuaded to join "Star for a Night"?

Lack of male contestants

Also troubling is the lack of male contestants on the show. To date, male singers competing on "Star for a Night" account for around 20 percent of the total number of contestants. Is this due to an inherent bias for female singers because they're deemed to be more "marketable" as lounge or recording talents? If so, this is patently unfair to our amateur male singers, who we know are at par in terms of talent with their female counterparts.

Finally, we note that the program is encountering some problems with its judges. One time, we were surprised to see a non-singing actor sitting as a judge of the singing competition. Sure, the star was sort of popular and eager to help, but was he really qualified to differentiate between excellent and less-excellent signing performances?

Too polite

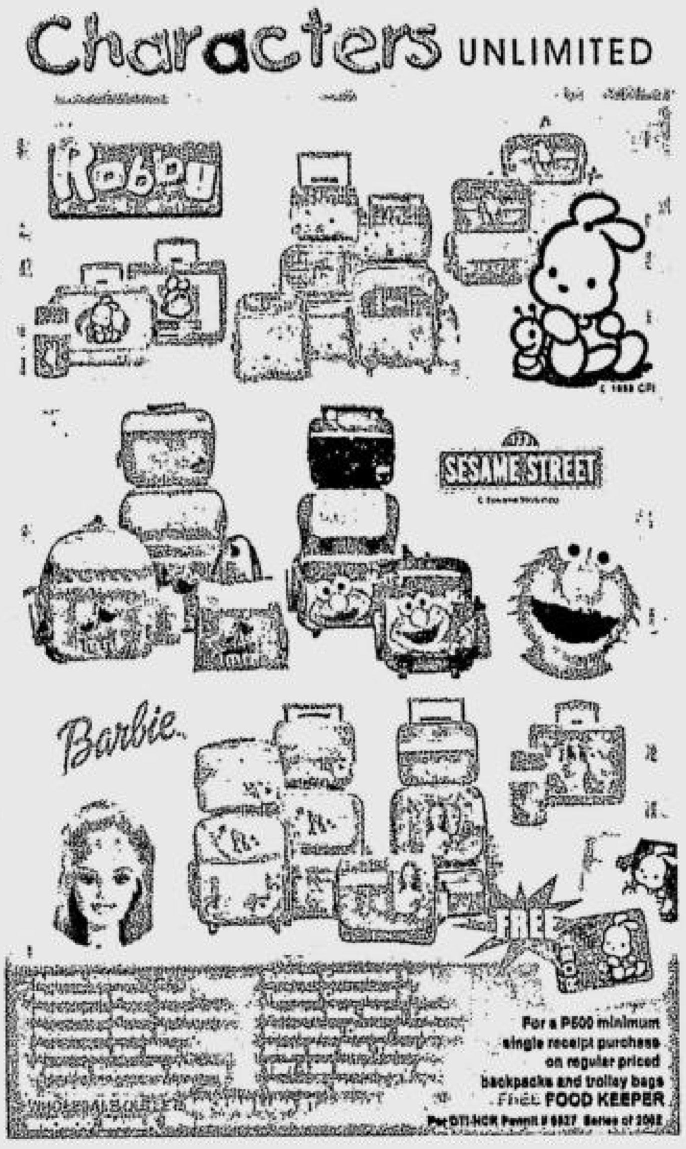
And, in general, the judges have become too polite in their comments to be as helpful as they were to the contestants during the show's first few telecasts. These days, they spend too much time talking about the contestants' "look" and "appeal," rather than coming up with constructive criticism about their abilities as singers.

We wish that the judges stop being cute and polite, and help the contestants to really improve as performers by resuming to give honest critiques. If a singer hits a wrong note, say so. The audience has heard and suffered through it, anyway, and would appreciate it if the offending singer would be informed about the aural lapse he has made.

Tendency

This overall politeness and safe approach has kept the show from being truly creative and dynamic. There is a tendency to over-decorate, to resort to the usual entertainment ploys.

Like, why are "interpretative" dancers featured so frequently to "support" the contestants' performances? Most of the time, the dancers' work is overly precieuse and distracting—and so old-fashioned! Concentrate on the singer's performance itself, why don't you? Isn't that what the talent search is supposed to showcase, evaluate and reward?



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Don't step on Elvis' blue suede shoes

By Mona Gonzales

WHAT is it about Elvis Presley and us Filipinos?

This question ran through my head as I watched the Elvis Presley look-alike contest that was held at the recent USDA event at Glorietta Park, Makati. The contest was co-sponsored by Cook Magazine (of which I am executive editor) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Contest

What, you may ask, does Elvis have to do with cooking? Well, another co-sponsored contest for the event was "The Best Memphis Ribs" (one of the contestants—who won for best sauce—called his dish "Love Me Tender Ribs").

Get it? Memphis? Elvis? Ribs?

I never knew how deeply Elvis was loved by some Filipinos until I got to see the contest firsthand. The festive atmosphere, and the spirit of sheer fun and family, led me to almost imagine that this was a new millennium, male version of our traditional Flores de Mayo!

How else could you explain what would lead men aged up to 65 (among them lawyers, an architect and a retired policeman), three young boys, (plus one woman who won third prize) to don the glitterati; puff up their hair and strut their stuff in their blue suede shoes to a revved-up crowd?

I mean, I like the Beatles but hey, I wouldn't do that. Neither, I think, would Steve Cadd, the Trumpets theater artist who hosted the competition.

President

Elvis, who died at age 42, would have been 67 years old today. And according to Chito Bertol, president of the Elvis Presley Friendship Club (and host of the radio program "Elvis Sunday Special" from 8 to 10 a.m. at dzSR 918), Elvis had more record awards (138) than the Beatles (66).

What's more, 25 years after his death, Elvis has emerged an even bigger star in death than he was in life. Would you believe, his home in Graceland is the second most-visited home in the USA after the White House?

Pinoys like Elvis for altogether different reasons. Overseas he may be the King of Rock 'N' Roll, who is best known for his fast, danceable songs. But over here, Elvis is viewed more as *the* sentimental lover personified. His signature songs here will always be in the genre of "Love Me Tender," "Fools Rush In" or "It's Now or Never."

Former "bad boy" Robin Padilla once said that if he were a singer, he would like to be Elvis. Why? Because Elvis was a "rebel" and when the musical trend was for ballads, Elvis introduced rock 'n' roll.

Wives

What struck me even more was how a contest like ours became a family event. Wives and mothers proudly took photos of their "Elvises," many of them filming the event with their movie cameras. The costumes were obviously homemade, perhaps designed by the contestants, or in collaboration with loved ones.

One contestant, when his tape didn't work, gamely sang "Wooden Heart" a capella. His competitors, who mingled in with the audience (but stood out with their "gear") mouthed the words and swayed along with the singer. And when the singer reached the refrain, everyone in the crowd gamely sang along. There was a feeling of oneness in the crowd. Everyone was happy!

Third prize

The woman contestant, Nina Ureta of Bago Bantay, QC, won third prize. Very pretty and talented, she nearly wept as she dedicated her victory to her mom. Second prize winner was Alex Torres of Laong Laan. First prize went to Lito Jauregui of Biñan, Laguna (he also won the dzSR "Elvis Sound-Alike" contest).

I learned a thing or two from the event. For example, I didn't know that the song "Dixie" (which I'd learned from my music textbook in grade school), was actually rendered by Elvis. It was the same with the song, "You Were Always On My Mind," which I thought originated from the movie, "Practical Magic" (starring Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock).

"It's fun to be Elvis," one of his local clones said. Yeah! Why, we even noticed a grade school boy had a "Makati kid" air about him, as comfortably as a much—loved and used old Nike shoe, twanging an imaginary guitar to the beat of "Jailhouse Rock." He moved *just* like Elvis!

ELVIS LOOK-ALIKES. The contest became a family event.

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Harrison Ford . . .

From p. H1

back in 1993 to put together a fourth film about the rugged professor in a fedora who battles snakes, spiders and all manner of bad guys in his globe-trotting quest for valuable antiquities.

Search

But the project was slowed, in part, by the search for a screenwriter. Lucas had earlier approached "The Sixth Sense" writer-director M. Night Shyamalan and British playwright Tom Stoppard for the job, Variety said. The last Indiana Jones film was in 1989.

Darabont, the writer-director behind "The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Green Mile," is expected to write a script from a story devised by Lucas and approved by both Spielberg and Ford, according to Spielberg spokesman Marvin Levy.

"They came up with a concept that they all agreed, 'Hey this could be the one,'" he told Reuters, adding that the choice of Darabont was a big step in moving the project forward. "It's going to happen." The Indiana Jones franchise has generated worldwide theatrical ticket sales totaling $1.2 billion since the first film, "Raiders of the Lost Ark," opened in 1981, Variety said.

Sequels

"Raiders" alone grossed $432 million, while sequels "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," co-starring Sean Connery, raked in 348 million and 418 million, respectively.

Darabont is hardly a stranger to the Indiana Jones franchise. He wrote several episodes of the 1992-93 TV series "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," as well as several editions of the "The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones" video series in 1999. *Reuters*

Lea Salonga in repeat of Broadway concert

By Edmund L. Sicam

SALONGA. About to star anew on Broadway, in the updated version of the Asian-American musical, "Flower Drum Song."

LEA Salonga's back in town, but just for a few weeks for a "vacation for me more than anything else. So I have more free time this time around to just relax and shop and enjoy the family . . ." Well, that, and doing a repeat of her Broadway concert at the PICC this June 19.

Tony awards

So what's Lea about to be busy with after the concert? She just came from New York, where she performed at the Tony Awards with the likes of Bernadette Peters and Gregory Hines. And in a few weeks, she's going to New York to start rehearsing for "Flower Drum Song." That's right, Lea's going back to Broadway. Does she find it easier to do the musical the second time around since she already did it last year in Los Angeles?

"No, there's no such thing. I don't know what I'm up against this time. The Chinese opera segment of the show, the first book scene of the musical, always terrorizes me, because it's difficult. You hold on to a stick, and you get callouses all over your hands, and it's a little painful. You can get dizzy and fall and lose your center of gravity, and you're supposed to end dead center, confident, looking straight up. It's not the easiest thing to do."

What's the cast of "Flower Drum Song" like? "It's a cast of Asians, and only Asians. And very few of the cast are stereotypically Chinese in any way. Everybody's pretty much very American. It's a very Asian-American story."

Lea then observes, "The one problem that Asian-Americans seem to have in the States is not being able to fully fit in. They're always the perpetual foreigners."

Has she experienced the same thing? "I've never had that problem, because I always say I'm Filipino. I've always been a member of the majority, I've never been a member of the minority. So I don't have that complex."

Having done well internationally, does she feel some sort of responsibility to the local music scene as far as her talents are concerned? "To try and represent the best that the Filipino can do. For example, if I'm going to perform at the Tonys, the immediate responsibility is to sing well, to keep my personal reputation on the up and up. To always keep it good and clean. Because that's also going to be a reflection of the person that I am, my heritage, the people who've trained me.

Responsibility

"And my responsibility is to say, yes, I am Filipino, and there are more talented people than me in the Philippines."

But, Lea admits, working abroad and moving from city and city isn't easy. "I work wherever opportunity calls from, and right now it's calling from New York. Which saddens me a bit, because my boyfriend is in LA. And it's driving me nuts.

"Such is my life. Even my family is going crazy. My family was insistent that I come home for three weeks before I start working on that show.

"It's not an easy life but it's a lot of fun, and it can bring a lot of rewards. And I know that, one day, I won't have to fly anywhere, except for short periods of time."

In the meantime, what about her relationship with her boyfriend? "I think it'll be okay. He promised to fly every couple of weeks to New York to visit. For both our sanities, I think he will do it."

In Lea's experience, do long-distance relationships work? "They can. You have to put in the same amount of commitment. If you really don't have that commitment, even if you see that person everyday, if your heart's really not in it, it's gonna die. But if your heart's really in it, even if that person is far away from you, it will work, it will be okay."

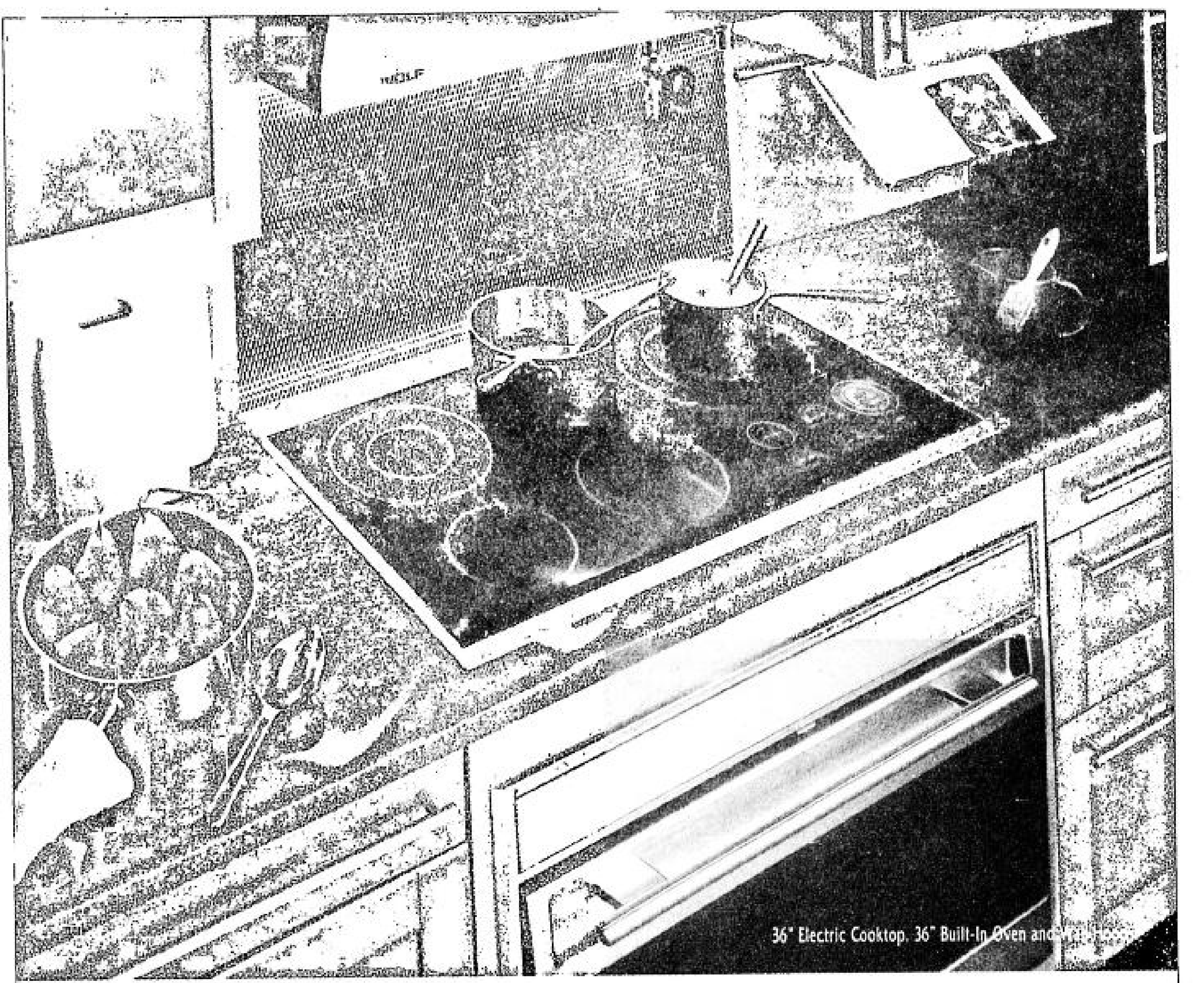
More television

So far, Lea's career is doing very well in the theater. Is there anything else she'd like to do? "I'd love to do more TV, because you get to really stay put."

Well, what with an aggressive manager who has kept her out of his LTS (life's too short) file because she's great to work with and doesn't stress him out, she just may be able to break into the elusive world of international movies and television. But in the meantime, she's doing what she loves doing—singing on Broadway!

> 'I work wherever opportunity calls from, and right now it's calling from New York. Which saddens me a bit, because my boyfriend is in LA'

LEA believes that long-distance relationships can work.



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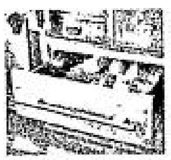

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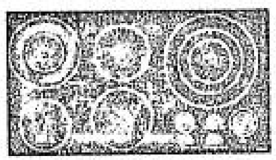

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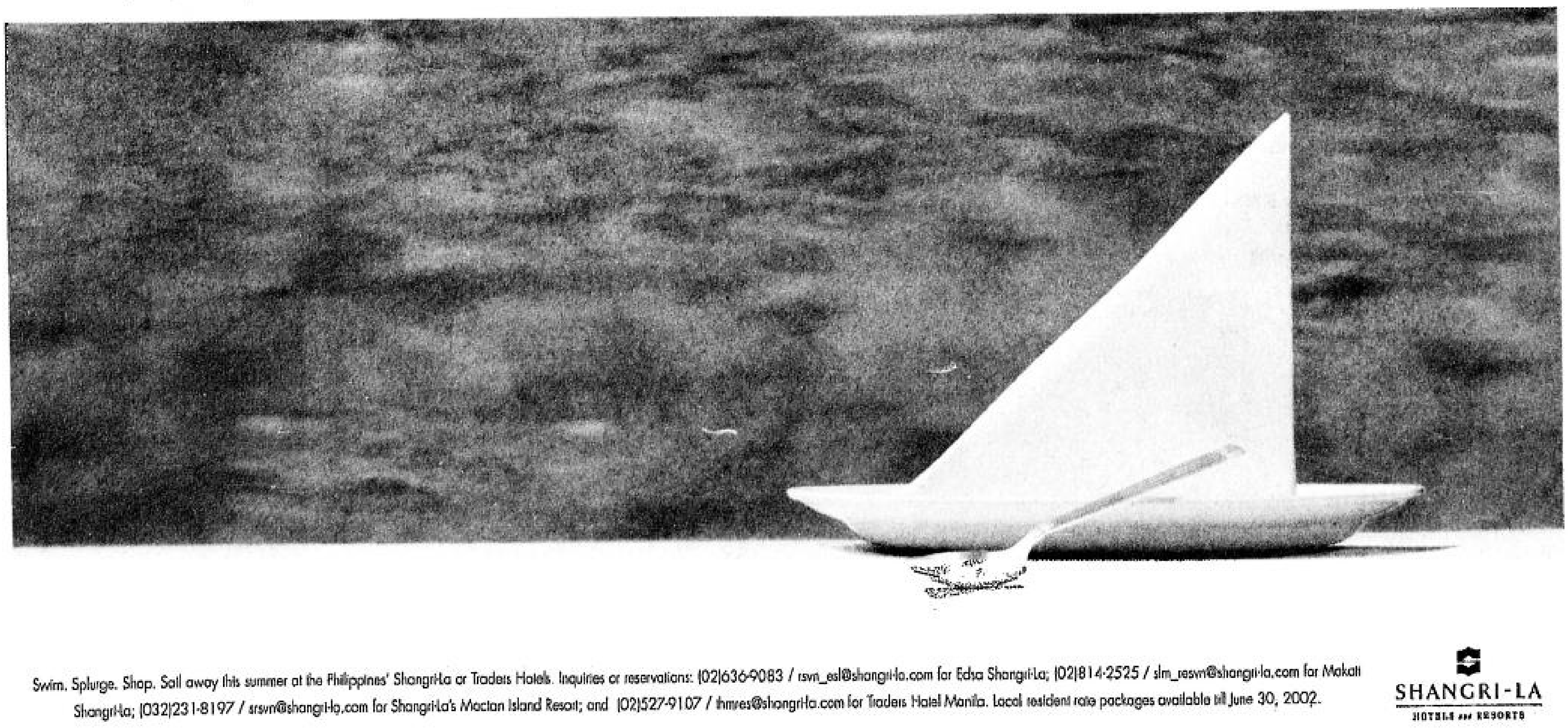

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"HARRY Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" dominated European cinemas last year.

Harry and Bridget hailed as Europe's top film draws

PARIS--"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" and "Bridget Jones's Diary" dominated EU cinemas in 2001, beating Hollywood blockbusters for the top spots, according to a report published Friday last week by the European Audiovisual Observatory.

The British-inspired features were perched atop a list of the 20 films that moviegoers in the 15 countries of the European Union went to see last year, helping push up ticket sales nine percent, the report said.

Magic

The magic of "Harry Potter," a US-financed version of J.K. Rowling's best-selling children's book, was unassailable with 43 million tickets sold, followed by "Bridget Jones," an adaption of another British book which starred US actress Renee Zellweger and seduced 26.5 million people.

"Lord of the Rings," another adaptation of a British book, and US animated film "Shrek," came next with around 21 million entries each, followed by eight more US films.

French hit "Amelie" scored well, pulling up in 13th place with 13.2 million tickets sold, and right behind was "Der Schuh des Manitu," a sensation that owed almost all its success to the German and Austrian markets.

"Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," a British-US co-production, was in 15th place.

Supernatural thriller

In 16th place was "The Others," a Spanish-made supernatural thriller filmed in English and starring Nicole Kidman.

The Observatory, an EU agency, said European-made films grabbed eight percent more of the EU market compared to the previous year. A total of 625 EU films were made in 2001, compared to 595 in 2000.

Most of the increase came from France's prolific and state-subsidized industry, followed by Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.

Production in Italy and Sweden slipped, it said, adding that there was "a very strong decline" in US investment for films made in British studios. Only three such movies were made in 2001, compared to 11 the year before.

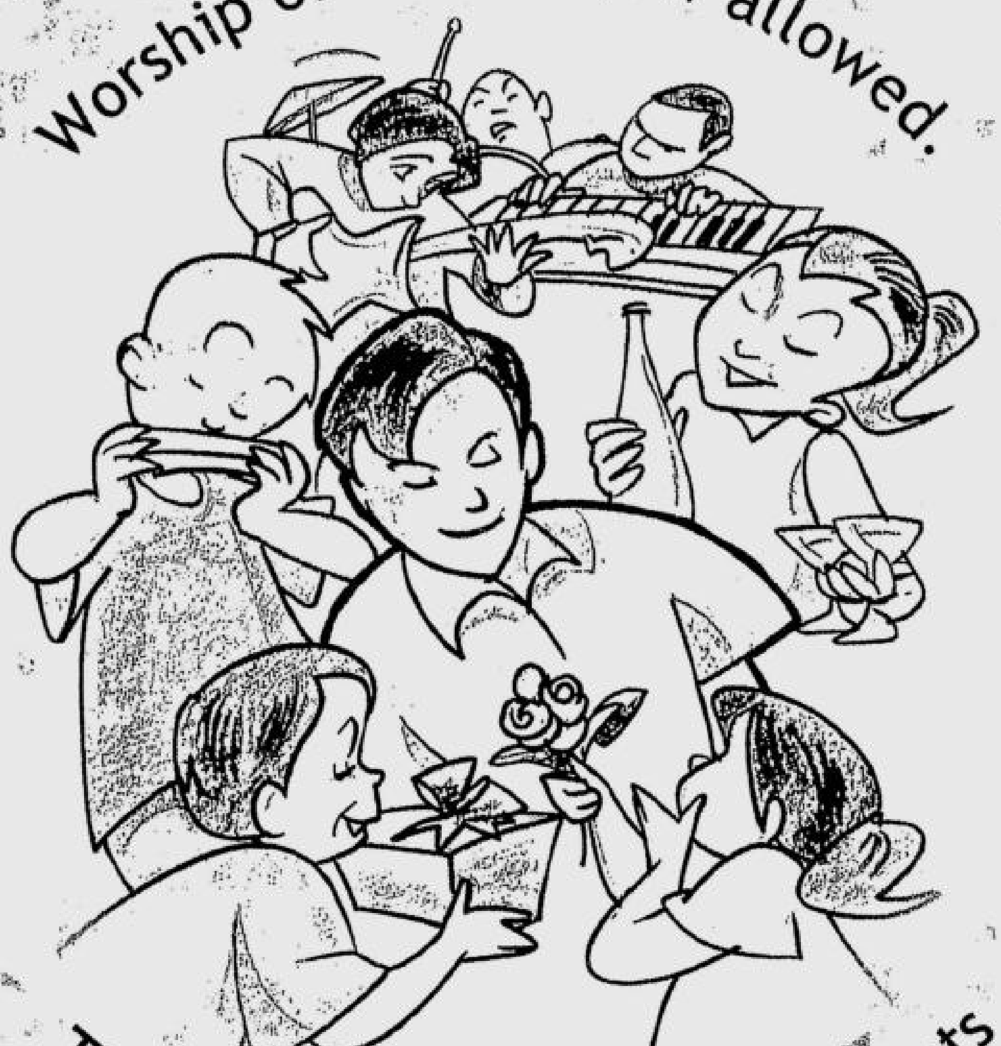
Nevertheless, the average budget of British films increased by 22 percent to around 9.6 million euros (25728.6 million) per feature.

Top 20 films

Below is the list of the top 20 films shown in the European Union last year:

1. "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (US)
2. "Bridget Jones's Diary" (British-French co-production)
3. "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (US-New Zealand co-production)
4. "Shrek" (US)
5. "What Women Want" (US)
6. "Hannibal" (US-British co-production)
7. "American Pie 2" (US)
8. "The Mummy Returns" (US)
9. "Pearl Harbor" (US)
10. "Cast Away" (US)
11. "Planet of the Apes" (US)
12. "Jurassic Park 3" (US)
13. "Amelie" (French-German co-production)
14. "Der Schuh des Manitu" (Germany)
15. "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (British-German-Japanese-US co-production)
16. "The Others" (Spanish-Italian-French-US co-production)
17. "Moulin Rouge" (Australia)
18. "Traffic" (US-German co-production)
19. "The Emperor's New Groove" (US)
20. "Scary Movie 2" (US) AFP

ZELLWEGER. Played the title role in "Bridget Jones."



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SATURDAY*Special*

Vanessa Williams plays glamorous witch in 'Into the Woods'

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—Vanessa Williams as a hideous crone?

Well, it's a stretch—although she plays one in full witch makeup for much of the first act of the Tony-winning revival of "Into the Woods," the Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine fairy-tale musical where there is no such thing as living happily ever after.

Wearing a tan sports jacket, open-collared white shirt and tight blue jeans, Williams sits in a theater-district restaurant and works her way through a plate of fried calamari and a steak salad. Not exactly a dieter's delight, but then, the actress doesn't need to count calories.

Theatrical heavyweights

Her beauty-queen good looks—flawless skin, almond-shaped eyes and hair pulled back tightly in a stylish bun—still get stares. And if those glances bother her, she doesn't let it show, preferring instead to concentrate on the subject at hand: working for such theatrical heavyweights as Sondheim and Lapine in a remounting of their 1987 musical that won a Tony Award June 2 for best musical revival.

"You don't usually get a chance to do a revival with the original creators," she says, explaining why she wanted to take on a show—and a role—closely associated with its first star, Bernadette Peters. "This is a chance to re-create a role differently."

Williams didn't see the original but caught the road company in the late 1980s in Los Angeles when Cleo Laine played the Witch in this dark, disturbing variation on the Brothers Grimm. In the early 1990s, the actress had a meeting about doing a television version of "Into the Woods" but it never came to fruition.

Body of work

"At this point in my life, at almost 40 (next March 18 is the big day), and having a body of work, I don't have to audition, but when I heard Sondheim and Lapine were involved in this new production, I immediately said 'Yes, of course I'll audition.'"

She sang "There Won't Be Trumpets" from Sondheim's "Anyone Can Whistle" and did a bit of the Witch's monologue—and was hired.

The creators were equally enthusiastic.

"I can't remember who suggested her, but she just seemed wonderful," Sondheim says. "And we leaped at it." He even added a song from the London production, "Our Little World," for the Broadway show—a number for the Witch and her daughter, who happens to be Rapunzel.

"It's just a little song but it offers them a chance to kind of romp together," the composer explained. "The way it was done in the original production, you never saw the mother and the daughter together having a good time."

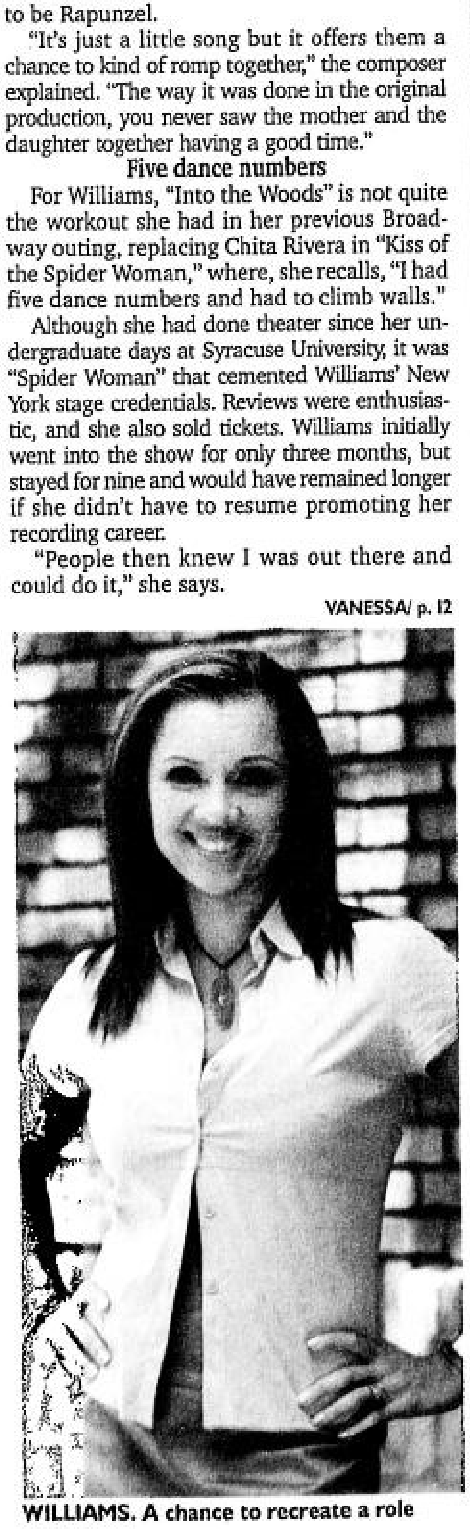
Five dance numbers

For Williams, "Into the Woods" is not quite the workout she had in her previous Broadway outing, replacing Chita Rivera in "Kiss of the Spider Woman," where, she recalls, "I had five dance numbers and had to climb walls."

Although she had done theater since her undergraduate days at Syracuse University, it was "Spider Woman" that cemented Williams' New York stage credentials. Reviews were enthusiastic, and she also sold tickets. Williams initially went into the show for only three months, but stayed for nine and would have remained longer if she didn't have to resume promoting her recording career.

"People then knew I was out there and could do it," she says.

VANESSA/ p. 12



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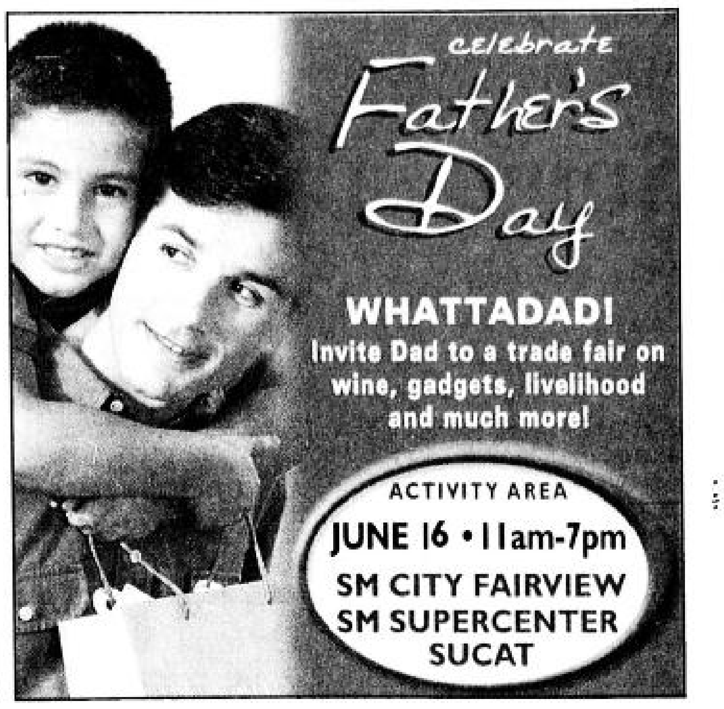

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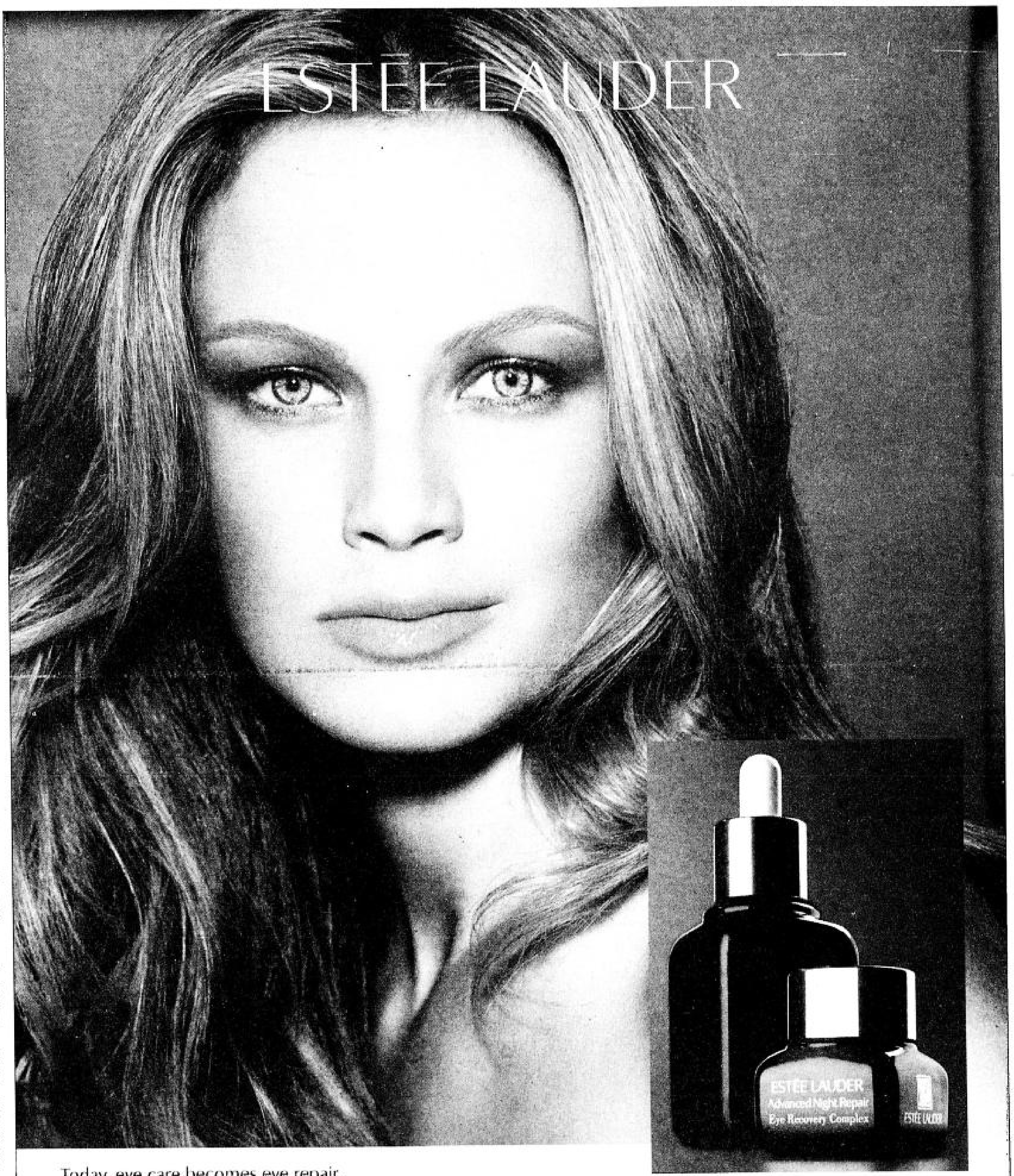

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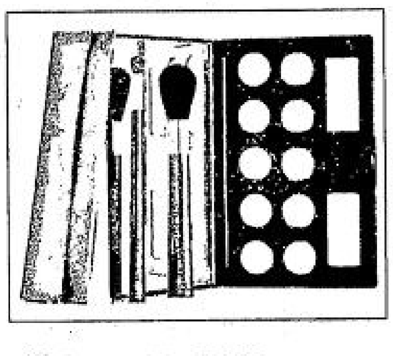

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Songs about life, joy and pain

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

RN
Ronald Navarro
Alpha/Harmony Records

AS YOU listen to "Isang Ngiti" it becomes apparent that Ronald's voice has depth and maturity. The song has mushy sentiments because it deals with unrequited love. But it earns sympathy with lyrics like *"isang ngiti mo lang ay puwede na sa akin, sinta. Asahan mo't di na hihirit pa."*

If you're tired of April Boy Regino crooning and complaining about his broken heart, this song is a better alternative. It has *masa* appeal but it still has the stamp of originality on it.

"Init Ng Yakap Mo" is melodic and laid-back. Navarro conveys the feelings in his heart and the thoughts in his mind deeply through this song.

"Hindi Kaya Ng Puso" is rich and mushy. The beat is carefree and laid-back, but it can still give you a good cry if you listen hard enough.

"Langit Ang Pag-Ibig Mo" is soulful and emotional. The singer knows how to convey the nuances of a song.

"Mahal Na Pala Kita" is sincere and romantic. Navarro loses his trademark falsetto and hits the right notes to impart joy and hope.

"Wala Ng Iba" moves and restores your faith in men in general. Anyone who has tried to suppress or repress his romantic feelings because of plain *"ka-torpehan"* will appreciate this song. It has anguish, anxiety, longing, and sadness, which convince you that men can be sentimental creatures, too.

"Hindi Na Lang" proves that chivalry isn't dead! So, succumb to the haunting strains of the lyrics, *"Sa tuwing ika'y aking kausap, lungkot ko ay iyong napapawi. Ngunit ang puso mo ay pag-aari na ng iba. Huwag na lang, hindi na lang."* This song can give Martin Nievera a run for his money.

It's Good, Eve
Vonda Shepard
Sony Music

"Maryland" possesses an earthy confidence with a sensitive twist. The lyrics *"Don't wanna wander. Don't wanna wonder what it's all about. I'm just working for a living singing with friends, as I cast my dreams to the wind"* make Vonda's sensitivity surface.

"A Lucky Life" is a slow, poignant ditty that reflects her moods and emotions, stylistically and lyrically.

"Grain of Sand" is smooth and unintrusive and carries you to another world. You forget where you are and what you are doing as you try to absorb its meaning.

"The Wildest Times of the World" has a good melody and easy recall. But it's not as compelling as "Naivete."

"Long Term Boyfriend" can be a good anthem for single girls. It's about having most of the good things in life (money, a stable career, great friends, supportive family), but there's something missing: someone to share it with.

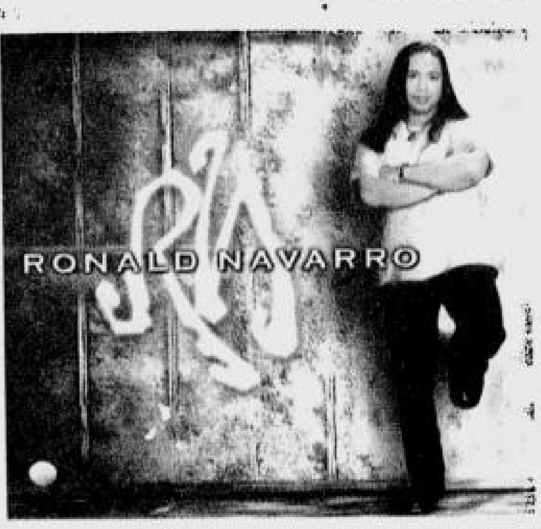
"Lika A Hemisphere" is pristine and fragile, brimming with such uncontained emotion that you can almost feel Vonda's bittersweet longing.

"Every Now and Then" portrays women as vulnerable creatures. It has a resigned and quiet tinge that makes it more poignant and stirring.

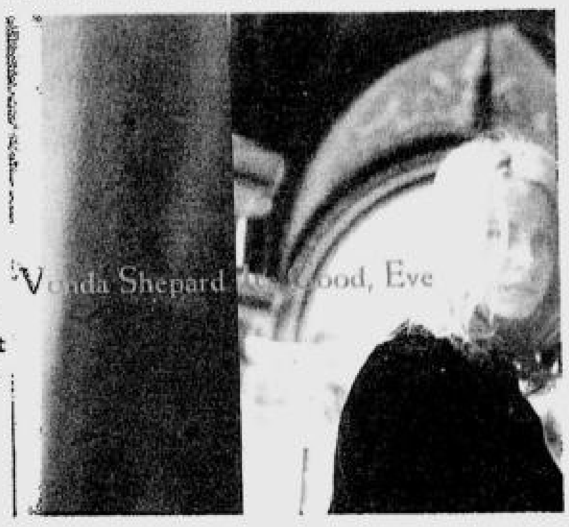
"Mischief and Control" is the kind of song you'd want to hear on a sleepless night when you need to replay unsettling or happy moments.

"Hotel Room View," "The Steady Train" and "Serious Richard" are old reliables. The approach to these songs is innovative and original, so you end up playing them all over again.

The strengths of the album are its melodies, lyrics and Vonda's voice. Each song celebrates an aspect of life, love and pain, and encourages the listener to appreciate every moment before moving on.



NAVARRO. Depth and maturity.



SHEPARD. Bittersweet longing.

Paula Peralejo plays a problem child

By Edmund L. Sicam

PERALEJO. In no hurry to reach the top.

PAULA Peralejo is not your usual career-driven young star. While other aspiring actresses are fighting tooth and nail to get as many assignments as possible, this younger sister of sexy star Rica Peralejo is content to proceed at a leisurely pace. She will only accept projects that she really likes.

Paula turns 18 on June 29 and doesn't seem to be in a hurry to reach the top. In fact, she confesses that she would be scared to be as big as her sister, because she doesn't want to face the pressure stardom entails.

Last movie

Paula last came out in a movie six years ago. Her only regular TV show right now is "Tabing Ilog" but there is talk that it will soon be axed. But she won't be idle because she has just signed up to do the latest drama series at ABS-CBN, "Tanging Yaman, The Series," which premieres today at 2:30 p.m.

The TV series is not a sequel to the very successful movie directed by Laurice Guillen. It is described as "a collection of family stories sure to warm the heart and nourish the soul," in the same way that the movie was about a family in conflict that was brought together by a miracle. The TV version will focus on one story every six to eight weeks, and each story will have a different director and set of stars.

The first story revolves around a family that disintegrates after the head of the family goes abroad to work. In the cast are Michael de Mesa, Amy Austria, Marvin Agustin, Danilo Barrios, Paula and Emman Abeleda. It is directed by Don Cuaresma.

Paula is the only daughter of Michael and Alma who agrees to be adopted by a rich family when things get rough. Unlike the character she plays in the series, Paula says that, in real life, she is not a problem child. She has always been a dutiful daughter, has not tried drugs and doesn't even smoke.

Paula never intended to be in show business. She joined "Ang TV" because it was more play than work. She had accompanied her sister Rica to the auditions and found herself getting invited to join the kids of "Ang TV." During the taping of the series, she would always hide when it was time to assign lines. Much to her surprise, her performance did attract some attention, and she's been part of the ABS-CBN family ever since.

Pet lover

Her ambition is really to finish college and be a veterinarian. What? Paula Peralejo, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine? She's dead serious about it, saying she wanted to enrol at the University of the Philippines but she would have had to attend classes in Los Baños. Her Plan B is to take up Vet Med at Araneta University. Why Vet Med? Well, she loves animals a lot. She has four dogs in the house and spends a lot of happy moments with her pets. However, she draws the line when it comes to slimy animals like iguanas and reptiles.

If she had to choose between a career as a vet or acting, which would it be? She said "vet med," without hesitation.

In the meantime, she's happy with her career even if it means being referred to as Rica's sister. Is that an advantage or disadvantage? "Well, it's more of an advantage since I get noticed. *Siyempre, may* disadvantage *rin, kasi* I hear a lot of comments about Rica, both pleasant and unpleasant."

She shrieked when someone asked her if she'd like to do bold movies like Rica does. *"Ay naku, wala akong K."* But Paula definitely has "K" when it comes to looks, and could give Rica competition if she wanted to.

Aliw Awards' selection process needs to be reassessed

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE ALIW Awards for live performance will be presented this year on Aug. 7 at the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Winners will be cited in these categories: performance in music lounges, bars, clubs and restaurants; major concert; concert act, musical; director, choral group, dance group, emcee, stand-up comedy act, most promising performer, new artist, instrumentalist, stage director, non-musical; production, musical theater production, stage actor, stage actress, and entertainer of the year.

It's good that our live performers' best efforts and achievements are being recognized and rewarded. But the Aliw Awards' way of coming up with its finalists and winners needs to be reassessed.

When the awards were revived a couple of years ago, we were asked to help out in certain categories by coming up with a suggested list of finalists. We submitted the list, as requested, but told the person who sought our assistance that this wasn't the best way to determine the finalists and winners.

The best way was to assign separate boards of judges for theater and live pop entertainment before the start of the year being evaluated, and the jurors would then spend the whole year actually watching performances themselves, instead of relying on other people's lists of finalists.

This way of doing things would be more comprehensive and reliable, and less open to subjective inputs from other people. It's a lot of work for the judges, true, but their verdicts would be more solid as a result of all that hard work.

This way of doing things would be similar to the CAT Awards decades ago. Those television awards required judges to view all TV shows throughout the year, and to meet monthly to compare notes, cite exceptional work, etc. That way, the judges evaluated not just one special tape from a given show, but that show's entire annual output. Thus, their decisions were more astute— and were applauded by the entire TV community.

If the Aliw Award jurors can't devote as much time, the next best thing would be for them to ask for tapes of shows that want to compete for the awards. This is the way that the KBP awards for radio and TV are arrived at.

This is a compromise, but it's still better than relying on lists of finalists provided by resource persons, no matter how well-meaning they may be. The bottom line is: judges have to watch the shows they're supposed to be judging, so that they're genuinely entitled to their opinion.

If this is the way that the Aliw Awards are being conducted this year, fine. But it isn't, key adjustments have to be made to make the live-performance honors as judicious and reliable as they should be.

China Film Week

Ongoing until June 16, outstanding Chinese movies are being screened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"Lotus Lantern," showing at 4 p.m. on June 15, is an animated film adapted form a Chinese legend.

"Shower," which will be screened at 7 p.m., is about the dramatic homecoming of a city dweller who goes back to his hometown.

"The Postmen in the Mountains," showing at 4 p.m. on June 16, eulogizes the men who deliver the mail to people who live in remote, isolated villages.

Also in the mini-filmfest is "The Legend of the Yellow River," on the rescue of an American pilot by a woman surgeon and Chinese army soldiers. Call 832-1125 local 1704.

Chinese movies have come into their one on the international film scene, winning numerous awards and a wide following. Do go out of your way to watch these cinematic treats being offered by the CCP and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

'Scooby-Doo' premiere

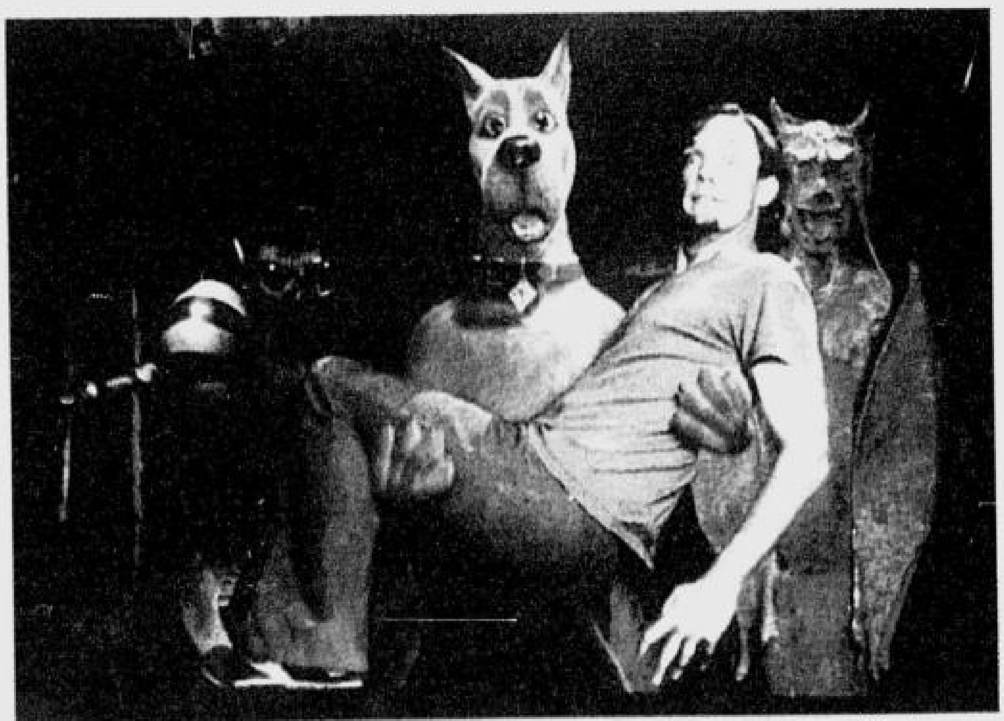
Warner Bros. new adventure-comedy, "Scooby-Doo," will be premiered at SM Megamall today. The film topbills Freddie Prinze Jr., Sara Michelle Gellar, Matthew Lillard and Rowan Atkinson, plus a computer-generated Scooby-Doo.

Promotional events relates to the film include:

—A Scooby-Doo car-spotting promo (owners of vehicles with Scooby-Doo and radio station dwTM stickers will be given special premium items).

—A "Scooby-Doo Fashion Show" inspired by the outfits worn by the film's stars will be held at SM Manila (June 16), SM Magamall (June 21) and Sm Sucat (June 22).

—And Infocom mounts "Scooby-Doo Opportunity Booths" and "Scooby-Doo Solve-the-Mystery Contest" from June 18 to July 19 at different SM Malls.



'SCOOBY-DOO.' New adventure-comedy featuring actors and a computer-generated dog-hero.

Vanessa Williams. . .

From p. 11

Sondheim, Williams says, has been extremely helpful in her quest to find the Witch.

"His notes are very concise and can completely hone and improve your performance—whether it is a word that needs to be emphasized or whether it's the diction. And he doesn't say it in an intimidating way."

Unlike "Spider Woman," "Into the Woods" is an ensemble musical. "I don't have the burden of being on stage all the time or having to carry the show," Williams says. "The Witch comes in and out of the action."

Haglike makeup

Which is a good thing, particularly because of the haglike makeup she wears for much of the first act and before she transforms into a most glamorous, diva-like Witch.

The extensive makeup—prosthetics tailored to her facial contours—requires a lot of work. But then, she says, so do the intricacies of Sondheim's lyrics which demand absolute concentration. "Every line moves the plot point along. You really can't relax," Williams says.

Williams is committed to "Into the Woods" until November. After that, she has a concert version of "Carmen Jones" set for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and next spring Williams most likely will do Richard Rodgers' "No Strings" for "Encores! Great American Musicals in Concert" at New York's City Center. *AP*

'The Next Big Thing' hits all the right notes

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—What "Zoolander" did to modeling and fashion, "The Next Big Thing" does to the stereotypes of the New York art world.

It's not as outlandish, but this screwball comedy about trying to break into that hip, elitist scene hits all the right notes as it gleefully skewers its denizens.

Chris Eigeman is endearing as struggling artist Gus Bishop, who keeps turning out colorful, abstract paintings that try the patience of his upwardly mobile girlfriend Shari (Marin Hinkle).

Gus is not a marketing guy; he has no "hook" that would attract media coverage. He's just a painter who still believes that "art speaks for itself."

He's pathetically awkward in his brief encounter with gallery owner Arthur Pomposello (Farley Granger), and it's clear his career is going nowhere.

Nowhere, that is, until his apartment is robbed and quick-witted thief Deech Scumble (Jamie Harris) realizes the paintings are worth more than the television.

When Deech comes back for more and accidentally runs into Gus, he changes his profession to agent. He creates the completely fictitious—and unseen—artist Geoffrey Buonardi as well as a slick, personal history for the art world's "next big thing"—all while using Gus' paintings.

The scam is on, and the disbelieving Gus is swept along.

Still, it's not easy to see another man bask in the fame that you've earned, especially when you are falling in love with an art critic (Connie Britton) who's mesmerized by your paintings.

As more people are swept up into the elaborate subterfuge, the scam grows ever closer to imploding.

The plot is a bit of a stretch, but the chemistry between the preoccupied Gus and the edgy, street-wise Deech makes it work.

Eigeman gives a sweet, boy-next-door performance in a film written and directed by P.J. Posner, making his major feature debut.

"The Next Big Thing" is also buoyantly supported by a rib-tickling cast of characters.

Granger is suitably pompous as the art gallery owner; Hinkle is a hoot as the gold-digging girlfriend; Janet Zarish is wickedly funny as the art patron who lusts after her proteges, and Mike Starr is delightfully deadpan as a private detective who wants a piece of the action.

A Castle Hill Productions release, "The Next Big Thing" runs 87 minutes. Two stars (out of four). *AP*

'Ya-Ya' sister Fionnula Flanagan has dealt with the 'wreckage' of her own life

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—Fionnula Flanagan plays someone who has dealt with the "wreckage" of her past and is helping a friend do the same in "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood." Having sobered up two decades ago, Flanagan is glad to be part of a film that shows people doing that.

Wreckage

"Unless you deal with and bring into the light the wreckage of your past and really own it honestly . . . you're going to pass on that wreckage to your children," she says. "You're going to live it out in one way or another . . . We know that medically, we know that psychologically."

Maggie Smith, Shirley Knight and Flanagan constitute the part of the "Sisterhood" that tries to help the fourth Ya-Ya (Ellen Burstyn) reconcile with her daughter (Sandra Bullock).

The 60-year-old Flanagan, who got raves as the housekeeper in last year's "The Others," feels many people avoid facing what's wrong with themselves.

And Hollywood avoids it, too.

"The evil or the bad deed is always placed in someone else. It always has to be an evil entity, an evil person, an evil monster, an evil alien from outer space, an evil country," says Flanagan, whose 5-foot-1 frame is topped by ringlets of thick white hair.

"Whereas this particular movie, just like 'The Others' did, encourages us not to look outside, elsewhere, but to look inside ourselves, as parents, as partners, whatever, and look at what we have to grapple with."

Flanagan has struggled with her own flaws and foibles, yet still likes to think: "Ooh, I'm wonderful. Aren't I wonderful?" She concedes she hasn't always been.

Self-deceptions

"I got sober 19 years ago. And when you choose to get sober for reasons of health and well-being, then you look at a lot of things within yourself, all your self-deceptions."

In "Ya-Ya Sisterhood," Flanagan plays Teensy, a recovering alcoholic. (One of the other characters says: "She joined the Triple-A.")

Fierceness

"Fionnula gives the character not only a joyous sense of humor but a formidable fierceness when it's necessary," says "Ya-Ya" director-screenwriter Callie Khouri, who won an Oscar for her "Thelma & Louise" script.

Flanagan feels fortunate to have dealt with her head against the wall."

If she can avoid a bald pate with contusions and get the movie made, it'll be called "Where There's a Will . . ."—which she describes as 'Waking Ned Devine' goes to the races, but with two women in the leads." *AP*

FLANAGAN. Struggling with her flaws and foibles.

'The Fast Runner' blends storytelling power and intimate camerawork

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—A naked Inuit hunter runs across a shimmering landscape of summer ice, chased by men who want to steal his wife.

He runs, and he stumbles into frigid puddles. He runs, and his feet bleed on shards of ice. This goes on for one minute, five minutes, 10 minutes, and more.

Pursuit

He's running for his life, and Canadian Inuit director Zacharias Kunuk is not going to rush the pursuit or turn away from the horror.

Let the brutal hunt end as it may.

Kunuk's directorial debut blends the legendary storytelling prowess of his Arctic people with the intimate camerawork of a documentary filmmaker to create "The Fast Runner," a film of astonishing beauty and power that examines how a tiny Inuit community deals with evil in its midst.

Tackling subjects such as jealousy, sibling rivalry, infidelity, rape and murder, "The Fast Runner" bowled over the international film community to capture the Camera d'Or award at Cannes in 2001 and six Genie awards (Canadian Oscars) including best picture and best director.

It's no wonder.

Passions

Kunuk reveals hot passions in the land of ice and snow, with a slow-paced, close-up technique that allows tensions to build. His Inuit characters seethe with anger, smolder with passion and ache with despair as he asks a universal question: Once evil has been ignited, how can it be doused?

In the screenplay by Paul Apak Angilirq, an evil spirit has invaded an Inuit community, dividing its people. On one side are the chieftain's three greedy sons, led by the oldest, Oki; on the other, two strapping youths from a poor family, Amaqjuaq ("the strong one") and his younger brother Atanarjuat ("the fast runner").

Years of animosity break into the open when Atanarjuat wins the lovely Atuat for his wife, after she was promised to Oki. Oki vows to get even and his rage grows with every passing season, poisoning the community.

'THE FAST RUNNER." Brutal hunt.

Natar Ungalaaq, a well-known Inuit sculptor and actor, is impishly appealing as Atanarjuat, a hunter perhaps too besotted with his own talents. In his first acting role, Peter-Henry Arnatsiaq is menacing as Oki, an Inuit Mike Tyson full of boiling emotions. Sylvia Ivalu is gently understated as the tattooed Atuat, a woman whose character and kindness are even more endearing than her beauty.

Broken community

Madeline Ivalu brings a solemn gravitas to the role of Panikpak, the grandmother who seeks to heal the spirit of the broken community even if it means taking action against her own kin.

Unlisted in the credits but a dominating aspect of the movie is the setting around Igloolik, an island community in Canada's northern Baffin region.

"The Fast Runner" transports its audience into another time (centuries ago, before contact with Europeans) and another world, with historically accurate costumes and tools complementing vast stretches of sea and sky. The sounds of the Arctic resonate throughout, with gulls screeching, ice crackling and tusk blades scraping the snow as igloos are made. *AP*

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On-line with Gene Orejana

By Remy M. Umerez

TURNING six this month is the talk show "On-Line" with Gene Orejana on ANC.

Credible show

Gene produces the show. He does not have a research staff and yet he comes up with a credible show that is watched Mondays through Fridays at 7 p.m. on the News Channel of ABS-CBN

To this date, Gene still receives threats everytime he speaks his mind on controversial matters.

Gene knows that he cannot please everybody and that one must take a stand on what is right, whether moral or legal. It is a value inculcated in him at the start of his career during the early days of the dictatorship, when he wrote for the Mr. & Ms Special Edition.

Reporter

In September 1992, Gene moved on to ABS-CBN Channel 2 and became a reporter on "Hoy! Gising," "TV Patrol" and "The World Tonight." He was promoted to News Manager of dzMM but preferred television. He became executive producer of "Hoy! Gising" and "The Inside Story." He was asked to help out in the Sarimanok News Network then at its infant stage.

Gene delivers the news on ANC live from 8 to 9 and "Good Morning Philippines" on Sunday mornings over the ABS-CBN regional stations. He is the director of ABS-CBN Integrated News and Current Affairs and manages the entire news operations of the 19 regional stations of ABS-CBN.

A dream interview for Gene is talking to the Pope, whom he admires for his efforts to preserve peace all over the world.

Gene has been married for 14 years to another broadcast journalist, Rowena. The couple has three sons and a daughter.

OREJANA. Still receives threats.

A Harry Potter mystery: his next appearance

LONDON—Do not be concerned, muggles. The next Harry Potter adventure is on its way and the only mystery left is when the fifth instalment in the boy wizard saga will actually appear.

The book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," had been expected to hit the shops in a few months, except author JK Rowling is still, apparently, working on it.

"She is still happily writing it and we anticipate we will be publishing it later this year," a spokeswoman for publishers Bloomsbury told AFP.

Reports

But she refused to go any further, despite reports that the book might not be ready until next year because Rowling was suffering from writer's block.

A spokeswoman at her literary agency was even less forthcoming. "We have no information about that," she said.

No information from Rowling or none from her publishers? "From anyone." Press reports here have quoted a spokeswoman for Rowling as admitting that it may not be released until 2003. Her US publisher Scholastic apparently told shareholders only that it expected to publish the novel there sometime before June next year.

The four novels so far have been hugely successful worldwide, while a film version of the first one, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," has been a cinema blockbuster.

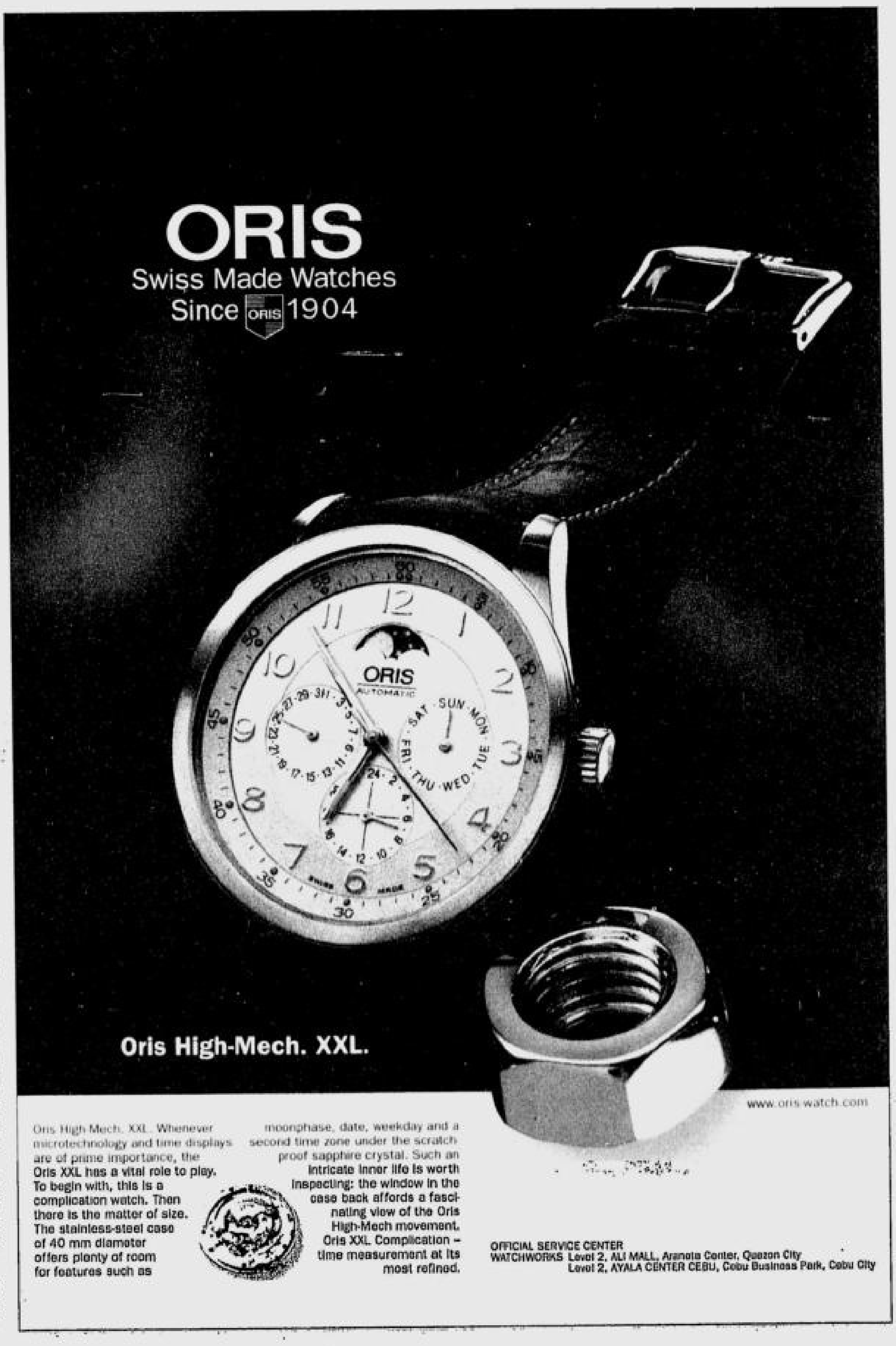
Basic plot outlines

Rowling has promised to write seven Potter novels, one for every year that the adolescent is at the Hogwarts school for wizards.

She has said that while she already has a basic plot outline for each book, "I like to leave some things to be decided while I write. It's more fun." The Bloomsbury website says she generally writes anything from three to 10 hours a day, depending on "how fast the ideas are coming." The first Potter novel came out in 1997 and the next three followed at the rate of one a year.

There was none last year when fans were instead treated to the movie, which has gone on to become the second-highest grossing film in cinema history after "Titanic," taking more than $930 million around the world.

The film of the second book, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," is scheduled for release in November. *AFP*



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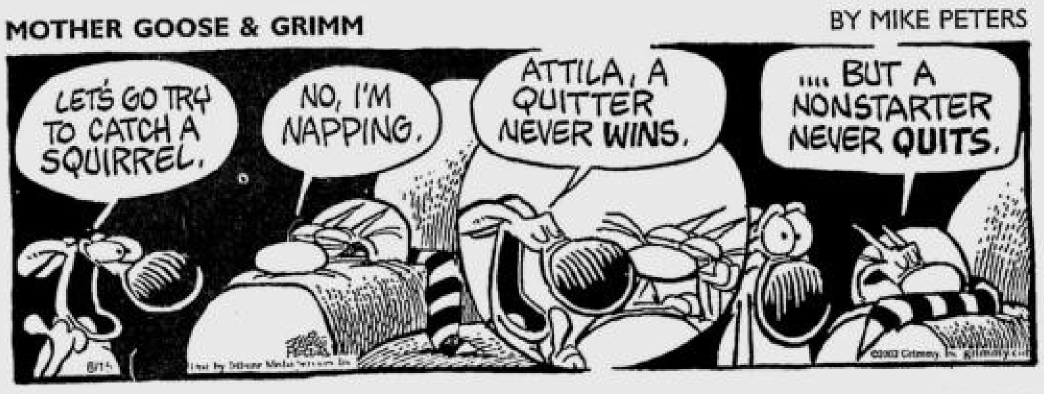
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

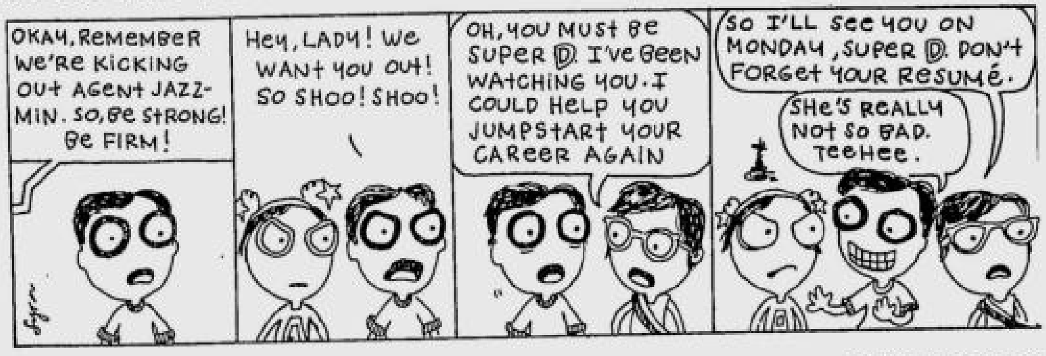
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LET'S GO TRY TO CATCH A SQUIRREL.
NO, I'M NAPPING.
ATTILA, A QUITTER NEVER WINS.
.... BUT A NONSTARTER NEVER QUITS.
©2002 Grimmy, Inc.

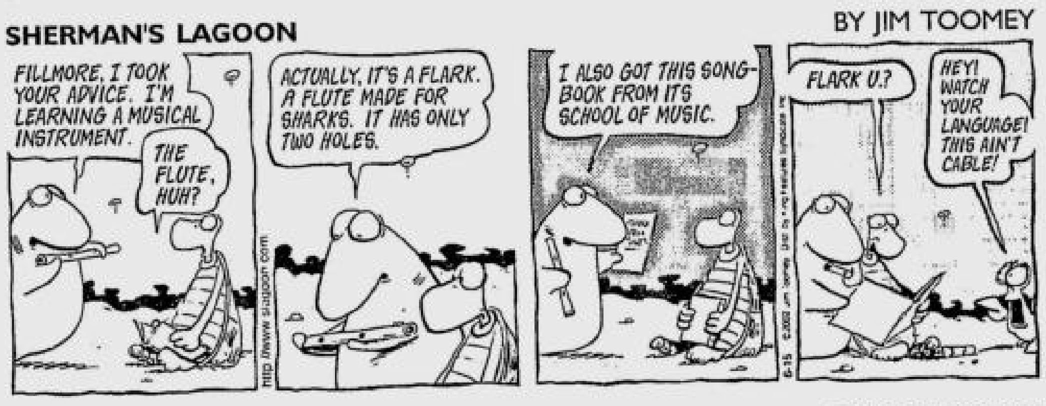
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, REMEMBER WE'RE KICKING OUT AGENT JAZZ-MIN. SO, BE STRONG! BE FIRM!
HEY, LADY! WE WANT YOU OUT! SO SHOO! SHOO!
OH, YOU MUST BE SUPER D. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU. I COULD HELP YOU JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER AGAIN
SO I'LL SEE YOU ON MONDAY, SUPER D. DON'T FORGET YOUR RESUMÉ.
SHE'S REALLY NOT SO BAD. TEEHEE.

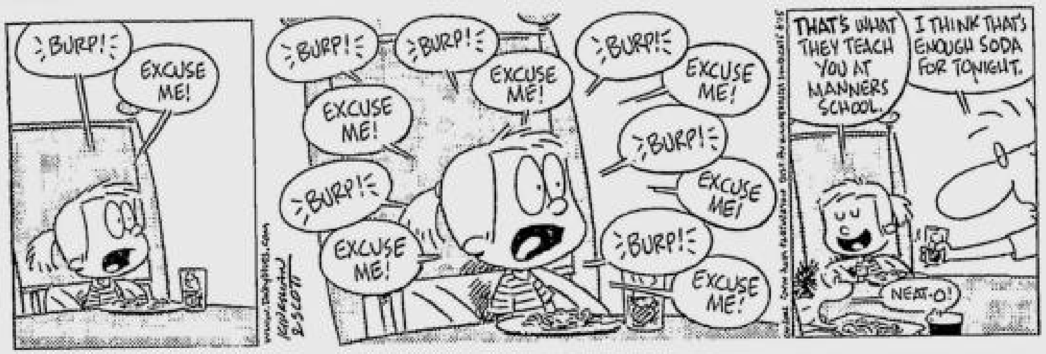
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, I TOOK YOUR ADVICE. I'M LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.
THE FLUTE, HUH?
ACTUALLY, IT'S A FLARK. A FLUTE MADE FOR SHARKS. IT HAS ONLY TWO HOLES.
I ALSO GOT THIS SONG-BOOK FROM ITS SCHOOL OF MUSIC.
FLARK U.?
HEY! WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE! THIS AIN'T CABLE!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BURP!
EXCUSE ME!
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EXCUSE ME!
BURP!
EXCUSE ME!
BURP!
EXCUSE ME!
THAT'S WHAT THEY TEACH YOU AT MANNERS SCHOOL.
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH SODA FOR TONIGHT.
NEAT-O!
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Waylon Jennings, Courteney Cox, Helen Hunt, Jim Belushi

Happy Birthday: Let your intuition lead you in the right direction this year. Expect to have greater concern and more communication with family, friends and neighbors. Money and other people's possessions will come to you through peculiar circumstances. Family secrets will be handy when you least expect it. Your numbers are 17, 25, 31, 36, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is your day to start anew. Get back into shape. Exercise and proper eating will lead to the look you want to have.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful what you say to a loved one today. Touchy, sensitive and emotional best describes the people in your life. Find a quiet place to go where you can regain your composure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be in the mood to party, travel and do all the fun things that you enjoy. Get involved in activities that will allow you to use your creative flair.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time to get serious and tie up all those loose ends you've left dangling. If you go through your belongings you'll probably find plenty of stuff that you no longer use.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll feel like socializing today. You should check out a new club or make plans to do something special with someone you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Slow down and smell the coffee. Someone may not be giving you all the information you need to make a wise decision. Give yourself a little time to think things through.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be looking and feeling great. If you are in a dull relationship you may want to consider someone at work. If you are single, now's your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to focus on yourself and competitive activities today. Someone you are close to is not likely to agree with what you want to do. You may want to keep your thoughts to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be looking for information today. Contact with cultural or educational institutions will be rewarding and enlightening. Seminars, lectures or travel will not be a waste of time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have an opportunity to make some cash but you must check out your financial situation before you make a move. A family member may become upset with your decision if you haven't consulted him first.

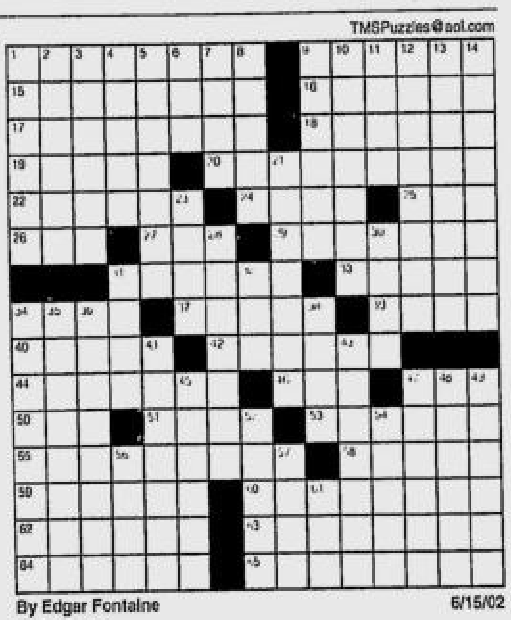
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be ready to get out and enjoy yourself. A romantic encounter can be yours if you are willing to make the first move. You will find a need to travel and should be looking into different destinations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is not a day to sit idle. Look for the opportunity to move ahead with a creative endeavor that you have wanted to pursue. You will be feeling aggressive and you should take advantage of it.

Birthday Baby: You will receive anonymous gifts throughout your life. You will have incredible dreams that leave strong impressions on you. You will want to achieve a position of leadership and will feel best when you know you are in complete control.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

6/15/02

ACROSS
1 Potter
9 Help out
15 Granary adjunct
16 Word manufacturer
17 One of Carrie's friends on "Sex and the City"
18 Four: pref.
19 Be frugal
20 How a drawer slides
22 Cuddle
24 Spoken
25 Cushion
26 Promos
27 Tolkien's tree creature
29 Repeat oneself
31 From the stars
33 Roadside restaurant
34 Sail support
37 Prevention measure?
39 Bookie's concern
40 Playful prank
42 Act testy
44 Mongolian warriors
46 Free (of)
47 Small pc. of land
50 Starting center?
51 Versifier
53 Eye membrane
55 Ecstatic
58 Little, in Lille
59 In play
60 "Suspicion" Oscar-winner Joan
62 Cactus surface pit
63 Former slaves
64 Served with a long-handled spoon
65 Aggressive drivers

DOWN
1 Aircraft pioneer
2 On cloud nine
3 Negligent
4 ___-garde
5 Cloaks
6 Addams Family cousin
7 District near Greenwich Village
8 Across: pref.
9 Exonerate
10 Vocalized
11 Former Chinese capital
12 Sought after
13 Saw-toothed
14 Dependent ones
21 Part of an iron horse
23 Within: pref.
28 Supported, as a roof
30 Civil disorder
31 Up to something
32 New England cape
34 Motherly
35 Repetitive literary device
36 Furrowed
38 Larger-than-life
41 Apollo spacecraft
43 Former orphan
45 Cheered
47 Before too long
48 Fisherman with nets
49 Causes time to pass
52 Minor squabbles
54 Double-check the total
56 Still part of a river
57 Part of FDIC
61 Born on the Bayou?

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	B	■	S	T	U	N	■	U	N	F	E	D
O	L	L	A	■	E	A	S	E	■	N	A	U	R	U
P	A	I	N	T	T	H	E	T	O	W	N	R	E	D
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	■	P	I	C	■	■	■
Y	E	N	■	V	E	E	■	D	E	S	E	R	T	S
■	■	■	L	E	F	■	T	O	N	E	■	E	R	A
W	A	F	E	R	■	B	O	L	E	■	T	H	I	N
E	L	L	E	N	G	O	U	L	D	W	H	I	T	E
T	B	A	R	■	R	O	T	S	■	R	A	T	E	R
L	E	I	■	C	O	N	S	■	T	I	N	■	■	■
Y	E	L	L	O	W	S	■	B	I	T	■	P	U	T
■	■	■	O	N	E	■	O	U	T	H	O	U	S	E
B	O	L	T	F	R	O	M	T	H	E	B	L	U	E
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M	O	T	O	R	■	D	O	E	S	■	Y	E	L	P

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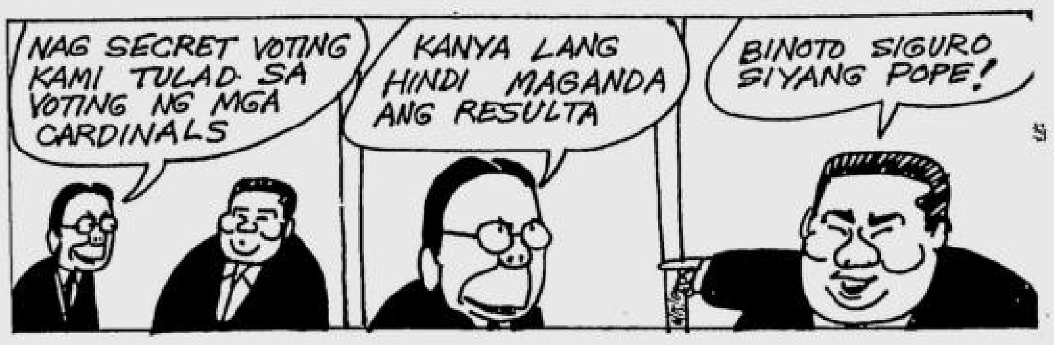
6/15/02

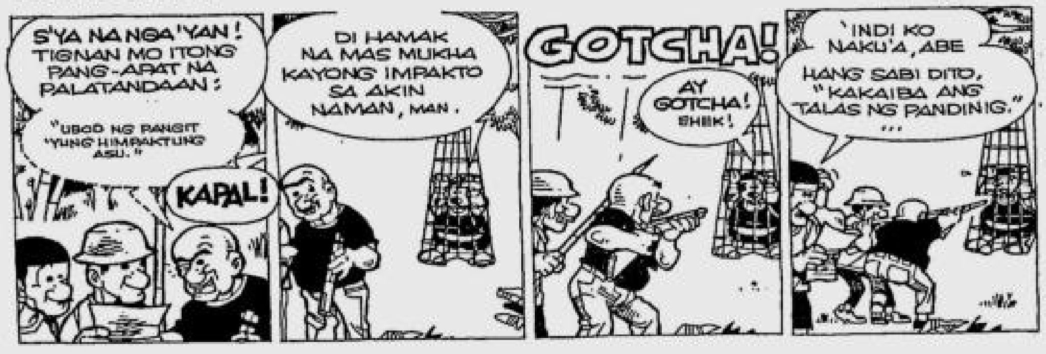
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAG SECRET VOTING KAMI TULAD SA VOTING NG MGA CARDINALS
KANYA LANG HINDI MAGANDA ANG RESULTA
BINOTO SIGURO SIYANG POPE!

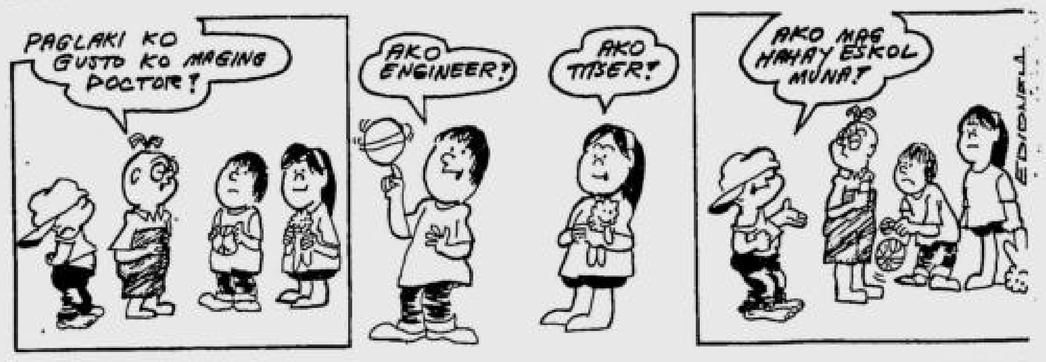
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


S'YA NANGA'YAN! TIGNAN MO ITONG PANG-APAT NA PALATANDAAN:
"UBOD NG PANGIT 'YUNG HIMPAKTUNG ASU."
KAPAL!
DI HAMAK NA MAS MUKHA KAYONG IMPAKTO SA AKIN NAMAN, MAN.
GOTCHA!
AY GOTCHA! SHEK!
'INDI KO NAKU'A, ABE
HANG SABI DITO, "KAKAIBA ANG TALAS NG PANDINIG." ...

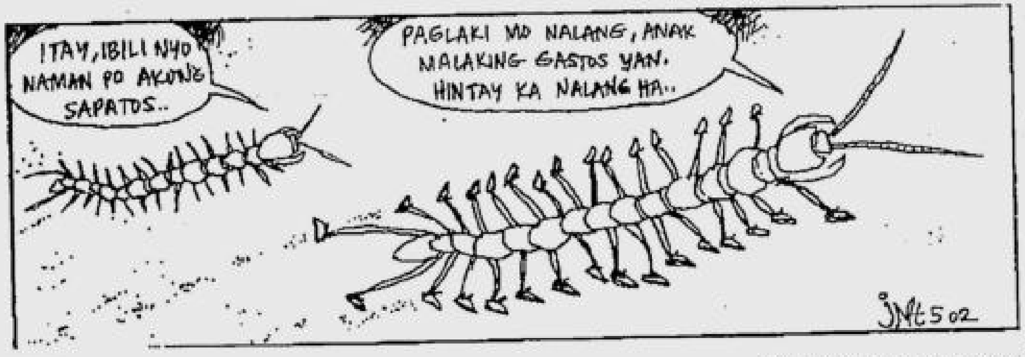
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAGLAKI KO GUSTO KO MAGING DOCTOR!
AKO ENGINEER?
AKO TITSER?
AKO MAG HAHAY ESKOL MUNA?
EDIONELA

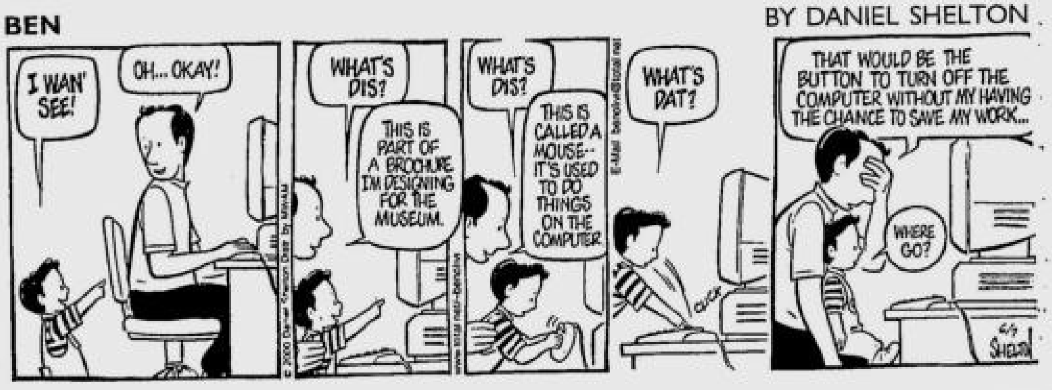
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, IBILI NYO NAMAN PO AKONG SAPATOS..
PAGLAKI MO NALANG, ANAK MALAKING GASTOS YAN. HINTAY KA NALANG HA..
JMt 5 02

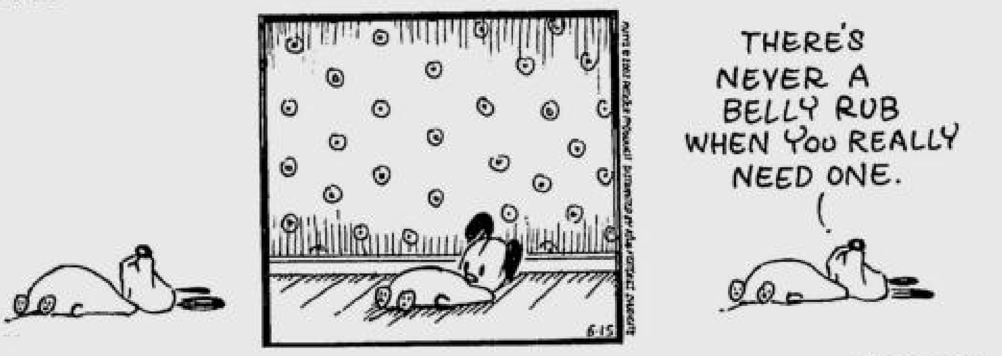
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I WAN' SEE!
OH... OKAY!
WHAT'S DIS?
THIS IS PART OF A BROCHURE I'M DESIGNING FOR THE MUSEUM.
WHAT'S DIS?
THIS IS CALLED A MOUSE-- IT'S USED TO DO THINGS ON THE COMPUTER.
WHAT'S DAT?
CLICK
THAT WOULD BE THE BUTTON TO TURN OFF THE COMPUTER WITHOUT MY HAVING THE CHANCE TO SAVE MY WORK...
WHERE GO?

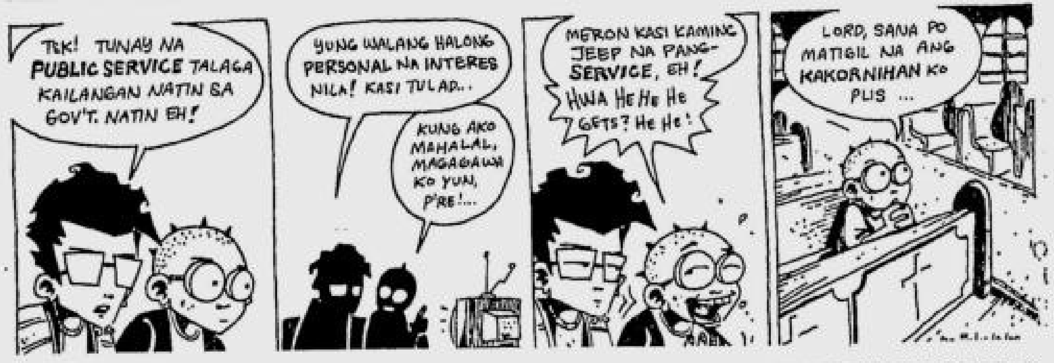
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THERE'S NEVER A BELLY RUB WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE.
6-15

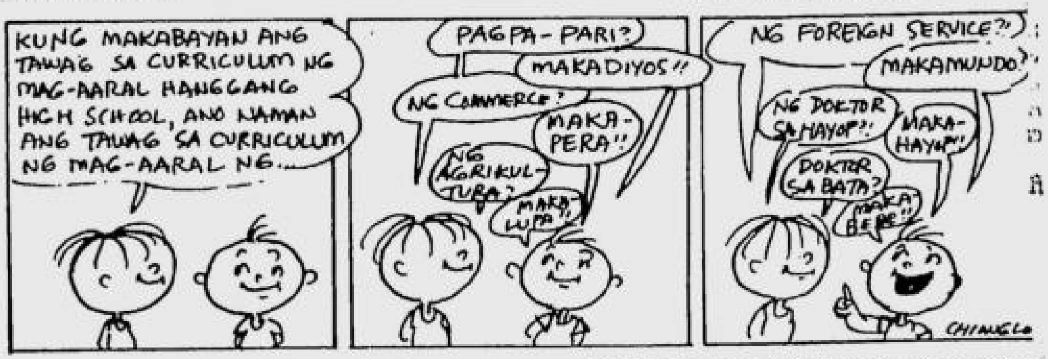
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! TUNAY NA PUBLIC SERVICE TALAGA KAILANGAN NATIN SA GOV'T. NATIN EH!
YUNG WALANG HALONG PERSONAL NA INTERES NILA! KASI TULAD..
KUNG AKO MAHALAL, MAGAGAWA KO YUN, P'RE!...
MERON KASI KAMING JEEP NA PANG-SERVICE, EH! HWA HE HE HE GETS? HE HE!
LORD, SANA PO MATIGIL NA ANG KAKORNIHAN KO PLS ...

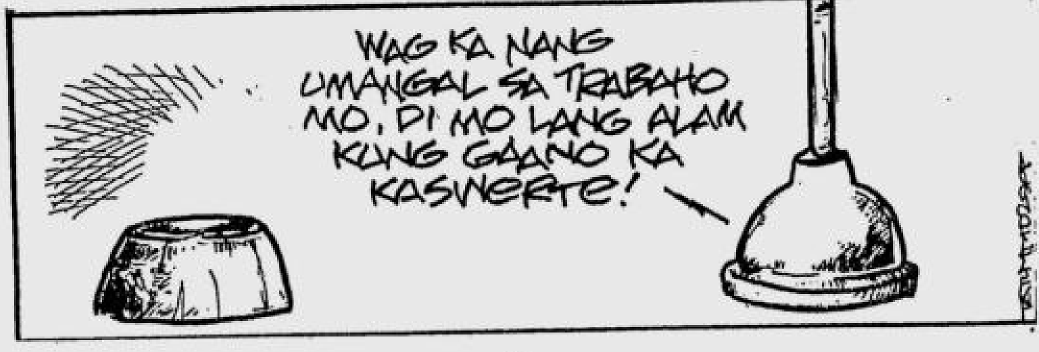
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG MAKABAYAN ANG TAWAG SA CURRICULUM NG MAG-AARAL HANGGANG HIGH SCHOOL, ANO NAMAN ANG TAWAG SA CURRICULUM NG MAG-AARAL NG...
PAGPA-PARI?
MAKADIYOS!!
NG COMMERCE?
MAKA-PERA!!
NG AGRIKULTURA?
MAKA-LUPA!!
NG FOREIGN SERVICE?
MAKAMUNDO?
NG DOKTOR SA HAYOP?!
MAKA-HAYOP!!
DOKTOR SA BATA?
MAKA-BEBE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAG KA NANG UMANGAL SA TRABAHO MO, DI MO LANG ALAM KUNG GAANO KA KASWERTE!

Karen Montelibano sizzles in 'Diskarte'

By Edmund L. Sicam

MONTELIBANO. Comfortable with screen nudity.

MAVERICK Films' "Diskarte" starring Rudy Fernandez and Ara Mina almost didn't make it to the Manila Film Festival, now on its fourth day. The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) found the movie too violent and sexy on first review and disapproved it for public exhibition. This was four days before the opening of the festival. Luckily for Maverick, a five-man committee approved the film on second review, so it is now showing at several theaters in Metro Manila.

Doublecross

"Diskarte" is reminiscent of the Mel Gibson movie ."Payback," which in turn was a remake of Lee Marvin's "Point Blank" (1967). The plot revolves around a smalltime hood who is left for dead after a heist when he gets double-crossed by his closest friend. He spent the entire movie killing off the guys responsible for his close brush with death.

In "Diskarte," Rudy plays an ex-Marine who, with his buddies, steals P40 million in cash and several kilograms of shabu from a drug dealer. His best friend betrays him and Rudy almost ends up dead. His buddies are not as lucky. They are massacred at a resort.

Rudy manages to escape after being shot several times. He seeks shelter in an old friend's house where he is able to recuperate. When he is well enough, he hunts the guys who double-crossed him and discovers that the conspiracy leads all the way to the top.

The confrontation scenes are definitely violent, but the blood and gore are tame compared to Sam Peckinpah's "Wild Bunch" or "Bonnie and Clyde." However, "Diskarte" is definitely more violent than Bong Revilla's "Kilabot at Kembot."

While the American productions did contain bedroom scenes ("Point Blank" had nude shots of Angie Dickinson, while "Payback" had "Charlie's Angels" star Lucy Liu engaging in sadomasochistic activities), they pale in comparison to the local version. Fans of Ara Mina who have missed her sexy films won't be disappointed with her bedroom romps with Daboy. Although the action star does not bare his butt like Bong Revilla did in "Kilabot," Rudy does have some passionate scenes with Ara. Lorna T has reason not to watch this movie.

Upcoming bold star Karen Montelibano shows off her bountiful assets in her encounters with baddies Roy Alvarez and Emilio Garcia. Karen also has a meatier role because she gets involved with both the drug lord and the guy who double-crosses Daboy. When Karen finally gets her comeuppance, she is able to get the moviegoers' sympathy.

Secretive

During the presscon for the movie, Karen admitted that she is comfortable with nudity on the big screen but is a conservative person when the camera is not rolling. While other bold stars we've talked to have been quite open about personal information, Karen was secretive. For instance, Karen is really her first name but she would not tell us her family name to protect her relatives from show biz intrigue.

She said she only needed four subjects to finish her computer course but would not tell us where she was studying. She did say she was 22 and proudly stated that her measurements were 36-25-35.

When it came to her views about sex, she was quite open and casual. She says she lost her virginity at 19 and prefers to walk around her house in the nude. She wouldn't mind frontal nudity so long as it isn't a close-up shot. We don't know if the secrecy is part of her career move but we know that, in due time, information about her personal life will eventually surface. That's what show biz is all about.

"Diskarte" is only Karen's second movie. "Sisid," which starred Assunta De Rossi, was her first and it also required nudity. She got involved with the movies because her present manager is a good friend of her *tita*. She's always wanted to be a movie star and idolized Vivian Velez when she was growing up.

Angelina Jolie torn by violent Colombian conflict

By Amy Taxin

JOLIE. Horrible tales.

QUITO, Ecuador—Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie, in Ecuador as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said on Monday stories told by Colombian refugees were the most violent she has heard in visits to refugee camps across the world.

Refugee camps

Jolie has spent four days in Quito and in refugee camps near Ecuador's northern border speaking with Colombians who fled their nation's armed conflict.

She said some refugees had told her that they had seen their spouses and children killed before their eyes—stories she said were more horrific than any she had heard on previous trips to Asian and African refugee camps.

The trip to Ecuador was her first visit to South America.

"I've visited many different refugees in parts of the world, all of them have horrible stories, but I have never heard . . . so many stories of every individual having such direct contact with violence," she told reporters in Quito.

Frightening

"I've never heard any stories so brutal and so frightening like the stories I've heard here," said Jolie, who won an Oscar for her role as an unhinged teenager in "Girl, Interrupted." Colombia's 38-year conflict among Marxist guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and the armed forces, claims an estimated 3,500 lives each year. Neighboring Ecuador has received 7,000 refugee status petitions from Colombians since the start of 2000, according to the UNHCR, which oversees shelters in jungle city Lago Agrio and Andean city Ibarra.

So far this year, Ecuador has received close to 2,300 Colombians seeking refugee status and expects to receive a similar number through the end of this year, UNHCR's regional representative Maria Virginia Trimarco said.

But Trimarco said government statistics show a difference of 200,000 people between the number of Colombians who have entered and left Ecuador since 2000. UNHCR wants to open a new camp in Ecuador's Amazon jungle province Orellana to move refugees at least 31 miles (50 km) from the border to protect them from possible retaliation attacks.

Reuters

MARCA LEON

Vrooom! Vrooom!
WALANG TIGIL
ANG PA-PREMYO!

Pabuhos ng Papremyo

Gusto mo bang manalo ng brand-new Toyota Altis, Toyota Revo o jeepney? Sumali sa Marca Leon ***"Pabuhos ng Papremyo"***! Aapaw ang malalaking prizes sa three preliminary draws. At sa Grand Draw, ang pangarap mong bagong kotse ay matutupad na!

Walang preno ang saya at pa-premyo mula sa Marca Leon Vegetable Oil and Corn Oil, ang Marca ng tunay na sarap!

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Napakadaling Manalo!

- To join, write your complete name, address, telephone/contact number and affix your signature on a piece of paper and place it in a white envelope together with MARCA LEON Corn Oil label or Marca Leon Vegetable Oil label/ tin cap entry combinations with promo stickers. Erasures or any form of tampering shall invalidate an entry.
- The following labels/caps are valid as entries:
  - All Marca Leon Vegetable Oil labels with promo sticker (new "green" labels only)
  - Marca Leon Vegetable Oil (1 gallon & 1/2 gallon) tin can caps with promo sticker
  - All Marca Leon Corn Oil labels with promo sticker

  * 17 kilos packaging are not included
- Submission of an entry from any of the group below is considered as one entry.

  GROUP A - ONE (1) of ANY of the following is valid as ONE entry:
  - 1 gallon CORN OIL LABEL
  - 1/2 gallon CORN OIL LABEL
  - 4 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
  - 3 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
  - 2 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
  - 1 gallon VEG. OIL LABEL
  - 1/2 gallon VEG. OIL LABEL
  - 2 liters VEG. OIL LABEL
  - 1 gallon VEG. OIL TIN CAP
  - 1/2 gallon VEG. OIL TIN CAP

  GROUP B - TWO (2) pcs. of ANY of the following are valid as ONE entry:
  - quart (800 gms) VEG. OIL LABELS
  - quart (800 gms) CORN OIL LABELS
  - 1 liter (910 gms) CORN OIL LABEL

  GROUP C - FIVE (5) pcs. of ANY of the following are valid as ONE entry:
  - pint (380 gms) VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABELS
  - 500 ml PET bottle VEGETABLE OIL LABELS
  - 320 ml PET bottle VEGETABLE OIL LABELS

  GROUP D - The following COMBINATION is valid as ONE entry:
  - 1 pc. GROUP B + 3 pcs. GROUP C
- Drop your entries in drop boxes located in designated groceries and supermarkets or mail entries to:

  Marca Leon ***"Pabuhos ng Papremyo"*** Raffle Promo
  Limketkai Manufacturing Corp.
  Suite 201 Limketkai Bldg., Greenhills, Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila
- Raffle draws will be held in Eat Bulaga on the following dates:

First Preliminary Draw	August 23, 2002
Second Preliminary Draw	October 18, 2002
Third Preliminary Draw	November 29, 2002
Grand Draw	January 17, 2003

- Deadline for submission of entries is as follows:

DRAW DATES	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES
First Preliminary Draw (August 23, 2002)	August 14, 2002 (Provincial) August 17, 2002 (GMA)
Second Preliminary Draw (October 18, 2002)	October 8, 2002 (Provincial) October 12, 2002 (GMA)
Third Preliminary Draw (November 29, 2002)	November 19, 2002 (Provincial) November 23, 2002 (GMA)
Grand Draw (January 17, 2003)	January 7, 2003 (Provincial) January 10, 2003 (GMA)

Per BFAD Permit No. 0446, Series of 2002.

Bonggang-bongga ang papremyo sa bawat draw!

First Preliminary Draw - NATIONWIDE

(1) TV Set	(Sony 21")
(2) Cellphone	(Nokia 6210)
(1) Kitchen Showcase	(La Germania 3 Burners w/ Gas Oven, Whirlpool Microwave AUM - 541 and Rice Dispenser)

Second Preliminary Draw - NATIONWIDE

(1) Computer Showcase	(Pentium III Computer Set, Comp. Table)
(2) Cellphone	(Nokia 6210)
(1) Gas Range	(La Germania 3 Burners w/ Gas Oven)

Third Preliminary Draw - NATIONWIDE

(1) Jeepney	(Isuzu, 20 seater)
(1) Trip to Hongkong for 2	(2 nights & 3 days) Inclusive of round trip airfare, hotel accomodations
(1) Entertainment Showcase	(Sony TV 21", Stand and DVD player)

Grand Draw - NATIONWIDE

Major Prizes :

First Prize **(1) Toyota Altis**	(Manual 1,6 G A/T - not loaded)
Second Prize **(1) Toyota Revo**	(DLX GAS - not loaded)
Third Prize **(1) Jeepney**	(Isuzu, 20 seater)
Door Prizes: **(3) Video Camera**	(Sony)
(6) Cellphone Units	(Nokia 6210)
(3) Gas Range	(La Germania 3 Burners w/ Gas Oven)
(4) Play Station Sets	(Sony Playstation I)

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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Parents' guide to good films for their kids

By Leia Torre

"THE MOVIE Mom's Guide to family Movies" is a parents' guide to more than 500 movies that are suitable for children aged two to 18, and that have been recorded on video. It is written by Nell Minow, daughter of Newton Minow, who as chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission was the first person to tell the National Association of Broadcasters that he would not allow broadcast licenses to be renewed unless TV channels met their obligation to serve the public interest.

Strong influence

The author makes it clear that her own parents, who were also great lovers of movies, were a very strong influence on her becoming a movie lover as well. Her parents' firmness in not allowing her to watch movies that were inappropriate for her has also prompted her to monitor what her own children watch.

The book is very thick, and is not meant for reading straight from beginning to end. It is divided into four parts, namely "Movies About Values," "Movies About Growing Up," "Just for Fun," and "Special Occasions, Specials Kids," further subdivided into the values that children should learn, issues encountered during growing up, movie types, and age groups of children.

Examples of values stressed are duty and responsibility, honesty and integrity, making moral choices, and tolerance. Tolerance was not considered a value in the distant past, and it interesting to note which films were brave enough to speak up for it.

A very good example that the author cites is "To Kill a Mockingbird," based on the book by Harper Lee, starring Gregory Peck as upstanding lawyer Atticus Finch. This section is the longest in this part of the book.

Issues

Some of the issues faced by children during their growing years are also addressed—ambition, competition, money, solving problems, families, loss, and making life choices.

Movies included in the "Just for Fun" part also have their own lessons to impart, but they do so in a more enjoyable manner. Some categories in this section include action and adventure, comedy, fantasy and science fiction, musicals, mystery and suspense and romance.

The book's fourth part, "Special Occasions, Special Kids" is subdivided into three sections: "A Calendar of Movies," "Homebound," "The Best Videos for Kids Aged 2-6," "The Best Videos for Kids from Ages 6-12," and "The Best Movies for Parents About Being a Parent."

"A Calendar of Movies" suggests movies for the family to watch during different holidays of the year. "Homebound" is a list of movies particularly good to watch when one is restricted to one's home, for whatever reason.

Comprehensive

The book is comprehensive and easy to use, with all the movies properly indexed by title and age group. The author even includes a list of possible sources for those videos that are hard to find.

There is also a section entitled "Film Lingo," which offers definitions or explanations for some of the more unfamiliar terms found in the book.

In the introduction, the author discusses suggestions on how to get kids to watch good movies, and answers questions that concerned parents frequently ask.

Also particularly helpful are the author's comments on the Motion Picture Association of America ratings, and a very informative and interesting list of the 13 different plot patterns under which most movies may be classified.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO MORE THAN 500 MOVIES ON VIDEO FOR KIDS AGES 2 to 18
The Movie Mom's Guide to Family Movies
NELL MINOW

MINOW'S book is comprehensive and easy to use.

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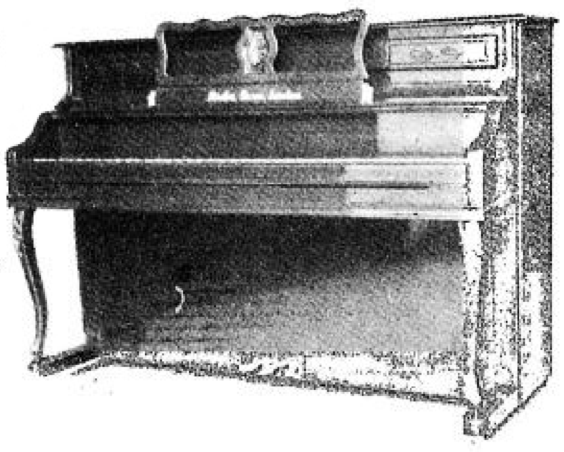
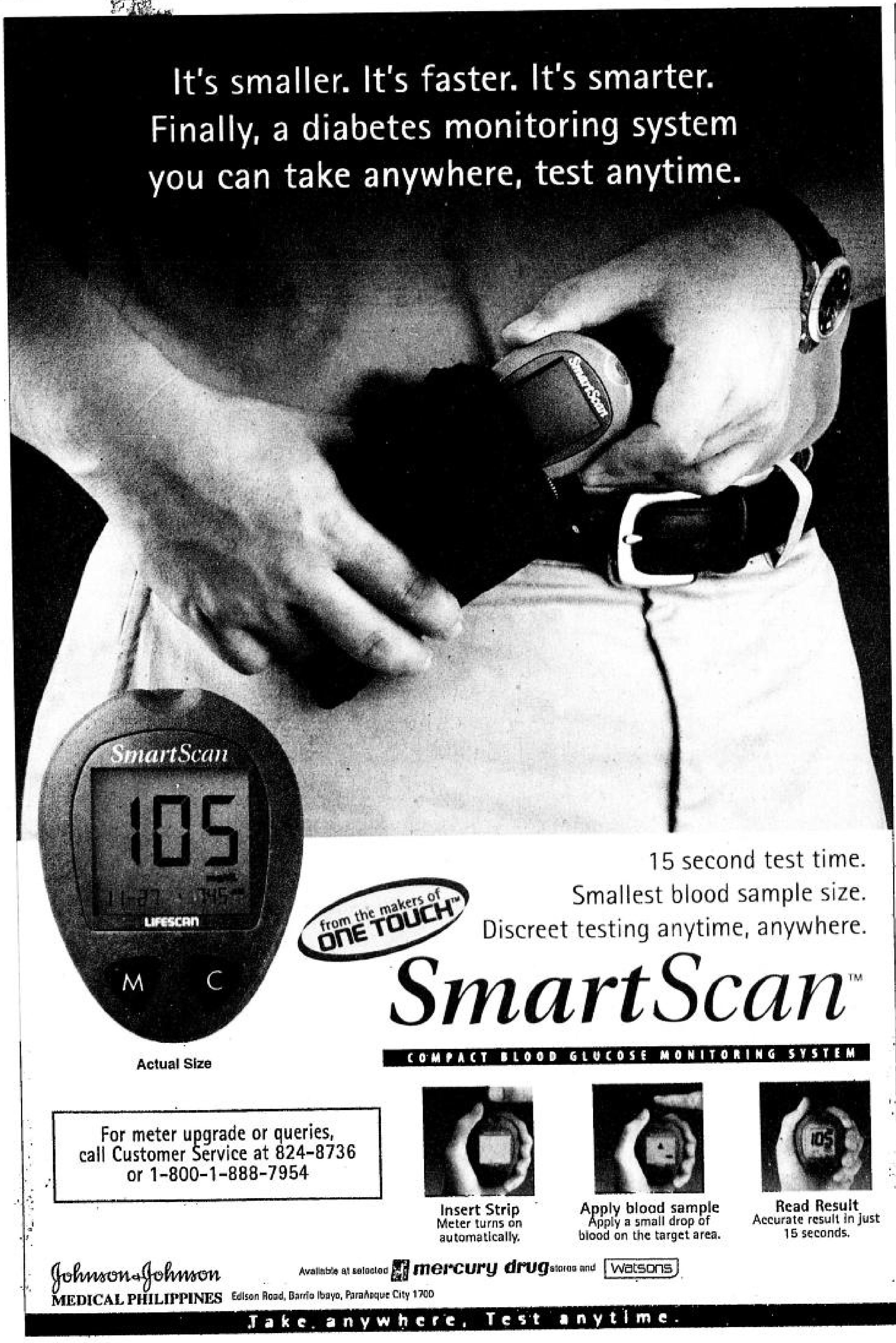
Weinstein

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'Cherish' suffers from vague plotting

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Like "Vanilla Sky" and "I Am Sam," "Cherish" is one of those movies in which the soundtrack is better than the movie itself.

Bands

The people marketing it must have realized that, too: on the cover of the production notes, right near the photograph of star Robin Tunney (wearing skintight capri pants and suggestively licking a lollipop), are the names of the bands whose songs feature prominently in the film.

There's Soft Cell's "Tainted Love," Human League's "Don't You Want Me," 10 CC's "I'm Not in Love" and Hall and Oates' "Private Eyes," for starters.

And of course, there's "Cherish"—the '60s classic by The Association—although writer-director Finn Taylor has crammed so much music into his movie that he may as well have added songs called "Cherish" by Madonna and Kool & The Gang.

The megamix of frothy pop love songs from the '60s, '70s and '80s is almost entertaining enough to distract from the weaknesses in plot.

Tunney's performance, however, is strong throughout. Her transformation from lonely, insecure computer nerd to self-sufficient, butt-kicking superwoman is a joy to watch.

Secret crush

In the beginning, her character, Zoe, is afraid to be alone. She's also afraid to be with the co-worker on whom she has a secret crush (Jason Priestley, wisely making fun of his pretty-boy image).

One night, after drinking too many martinis at a company party, she's forced into her car by a guy who has a secret crush on her, and has been stalking her. (We're supposed to believe that she can't tell who he is because it's dark outside and he's wearing a baseball cap.) He makes her drive, and when a police officer tries to pull her over for being drunk, she runs over the cop and kills him. But the stalker escapes after the crash, so when Zoe's arrested, no one believes he was there.

"Cherish," a Fine Line Features release, runs 100 minutes. Two stars (out of four). *AP*

> The megamix of frothy pop love songs from the '60s, '70s and '80s is almost entertaining enough to distract from the weaknesses in the plot.

'CHERISH.' Robin Tunney's performance is strong throughout the film.

Hello klasmeyts!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002 ✦ 16 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 36

HTTP://YOU.INQ7.NET/JI

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Isang Paglalakbay** Page 4
- **Kuwento: Sulatan** Page 8
- **Lightbulb of an Idea** Page 10
- **Shirley's Pets** Page 14

SAY CHEEZ! Bhel got a confidence boost from her week-long video production stint.

JOHNNY VILLENA

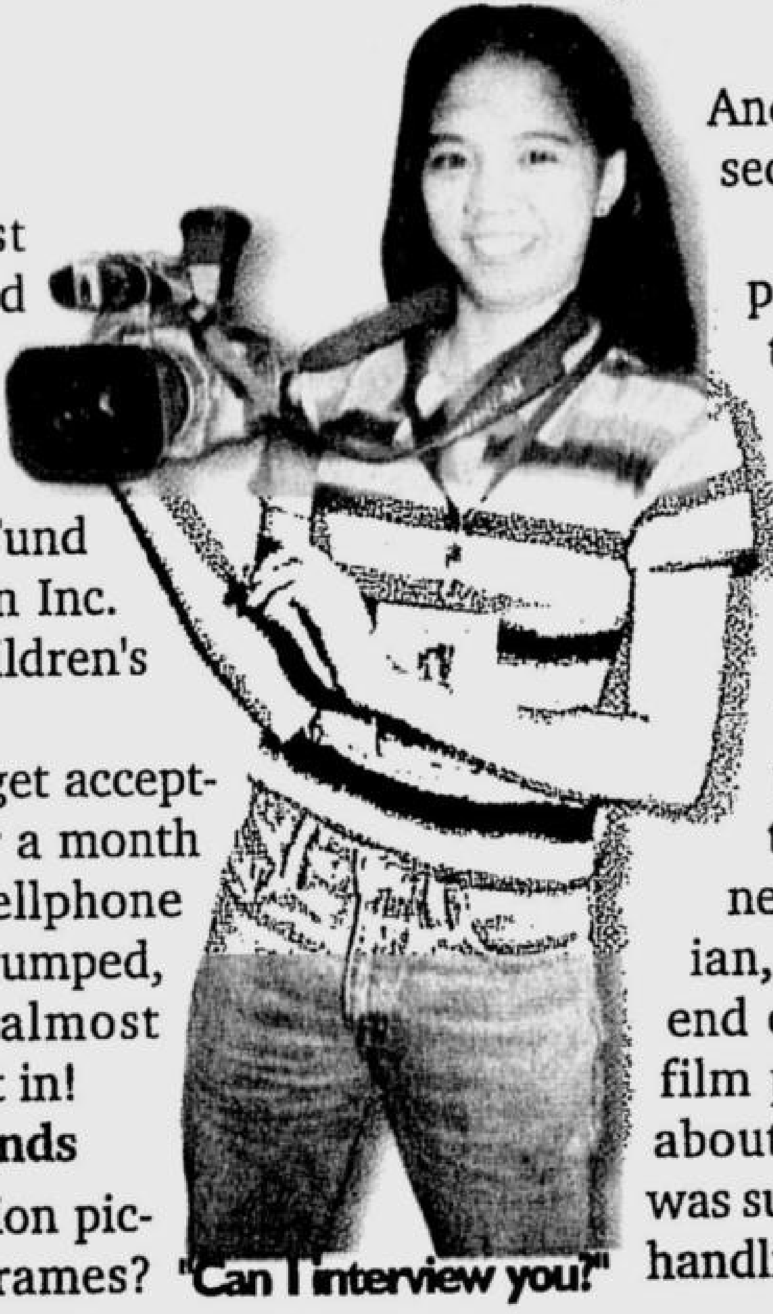
PROBE AT unicef
FOUNDATION INC
EKSENANG BATA
WORKSHOP PARA SA MGA BATA

FUTURE TV PRODUCERS. Workshop participants get to make their own films and make new friends at the same time.

So Shoot Me!

The Diary of an Upstart Videographer

By Maria Zobel Certeza



"Can I interview you!"

I WANT to be a journalist someday. I tried my luck and submitted an application form to a week-long video workshop offered by the United Nation's Children's Fund and Probe Media Foundation Inc. It was going to focus on children's rights.

I did not really expect to get accepted. But to my surprise, after a month of anxiously waiting, my cellphone rang. I had made the list! I jumped, screamed and danced...I almost cried. I couldn't believe I got in!

Day 1: Frames and Friends

Did you know that a motion picture film is composed of frames? And 24 frames are equal to one second?

Mr. Joseph Fortin, a Fine Arts professor at the University of the Philippines taught us all about the parts of a video camera and different shooting techniques.

I was thrilled with our first exercise. We were asked to take shots of activities outside the building. The best part of this activity was meeting my new friends: my group mates Arian, Ana, Jen and Jayson. At the end of the day Mr. Frutto Corre, a film professor in U.P. talked to us about our work. Wow! He said he was surprised by our natural camera-handling skills.

Day 2: Eye-openers

Documentary Film—a film about the reality of life that's happening around us.

Well, Mr. Corre told us all about the history of film and showed us the different kinds of documentary films.

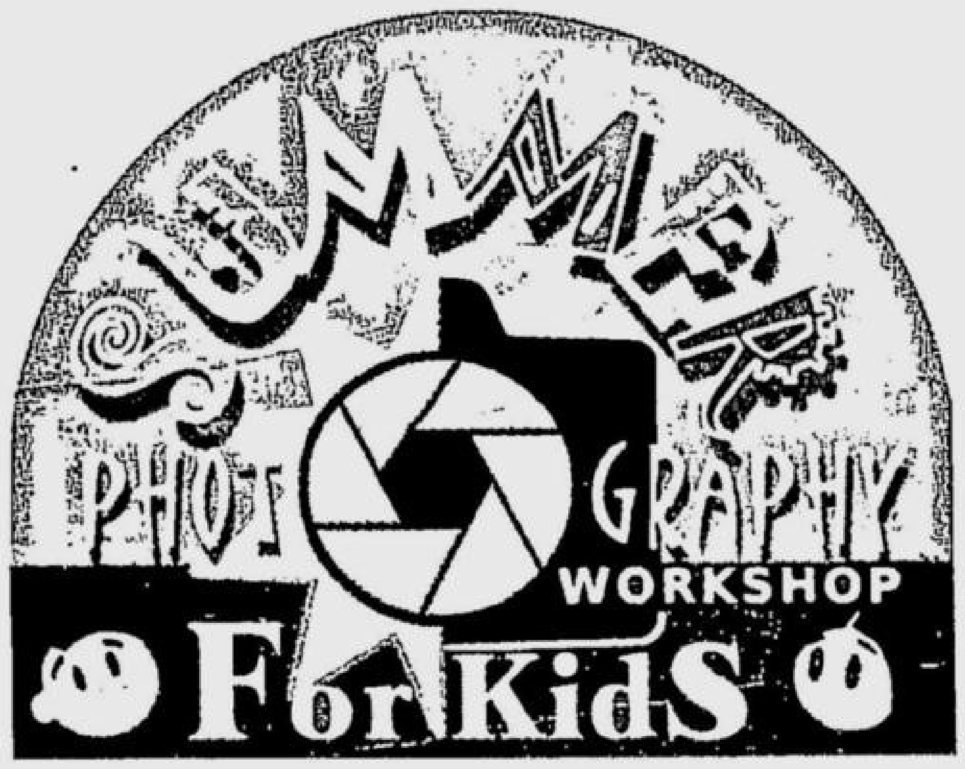
I was amazed at the different examples of films shown to us. A glimpse of life up the North Pole, the fate of people during World War II, and the daily routine of a priest in Mindanao made me feel that I was part of these people's lives in those few minutes.

We also watched "Minsan Lang Sila Bata," a documentary film about child labor.

Sad Stories

The story of the kids shown were very depressing because they were doing jobs that grown up people normally do. There were kids working in a butcher factory and carrying bags of cement from a ship.

So Shoot/ p. 6



Look Out Kid!

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PRIMA
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You could be missing on a chance to win a* Canon *BF 800 Camera

We are accepting entries coming from the young and the young-at-heart. Just send in your entries directly to Ms. Masoy of the Marketing Department (Philippine Daily Inquirer).

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

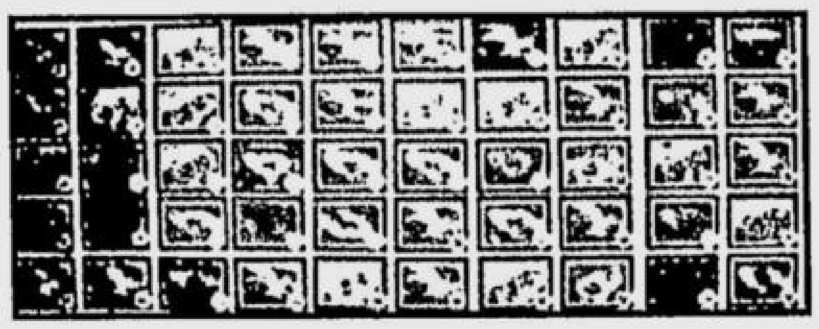
What happens when a newspaper giant Philippine Daily Inquirer and industry leader Canon Camera join forces?

"We all had a great time" says Dean Guerrero, one of the participants in the Summer Photography Workshop for Kids.

"We were taught how to use a camera, how to take care of it and more importantly, we were given the chance to shoot pictures" adds Mica.

Parents said it's worth the time and the effort bringing their kids to the workshop -- the photo exhibit proves that.

Best of all, everything's free! Courtesy of partner sponsors Super East Asia, Junior Inquirer, Kids@Work, Henlin, Kameraworld, Lactum and Nestle Chocolate.

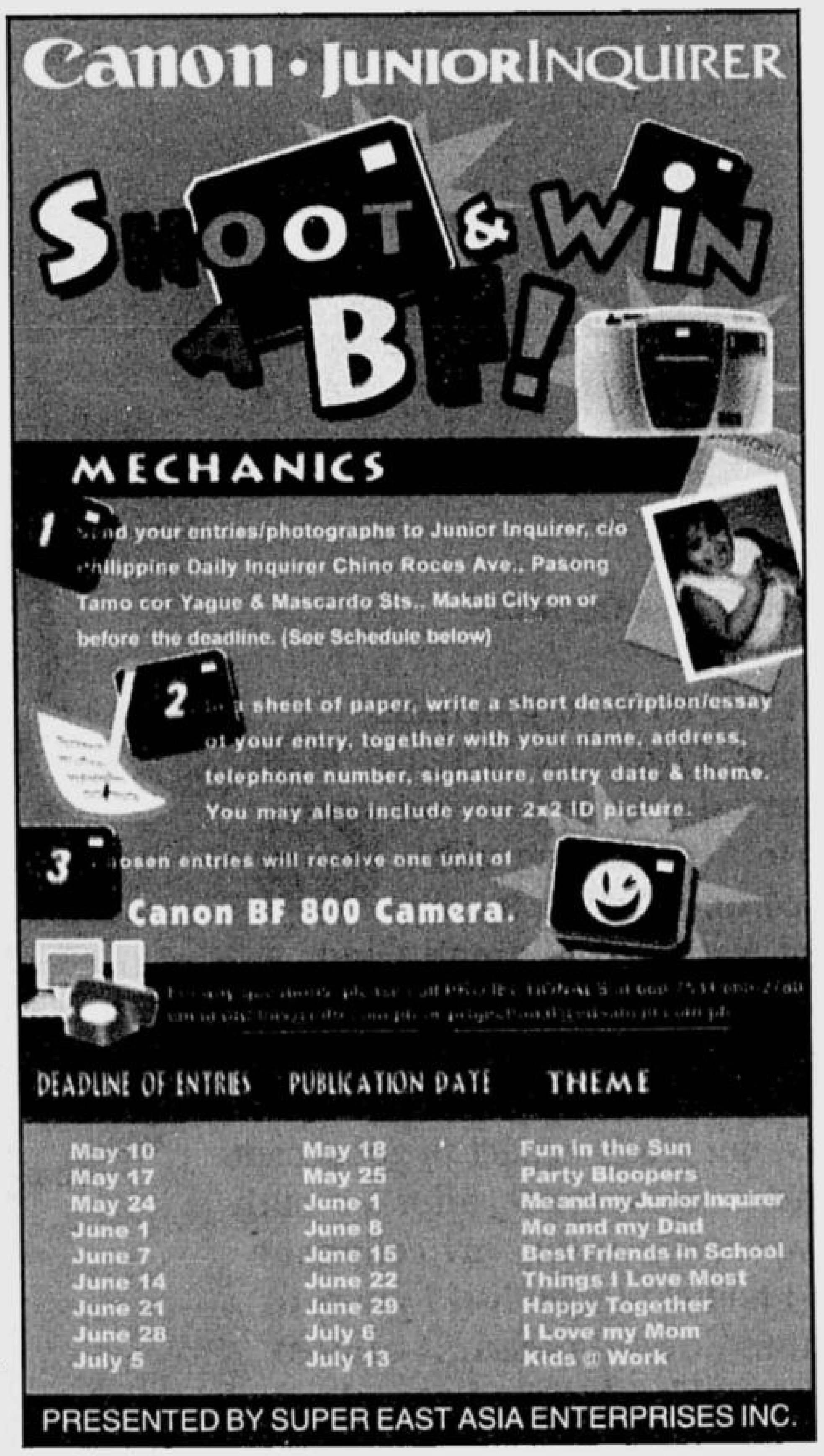


Painted Pictures

Ice-breaker...

Super East SVP, Ms.Conchita Sy (L) awards the Certificate of Completion to workshop participants who were able to complete the 3-day workshop session.

Canon - Super East Asia's President William Sia (R) hands over the Plaque of Appreciation to Junior Inquirer's Marketing Director Donald Lim (L) for its generous support to the activity.


SHOOT & WIN A BF!

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MECHANICS

1 nd your entries/photographs to Junior Inquirer, c/o hilippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Ave., Pasong Tamo cor Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City on or before the deadline. (See Schedule below)

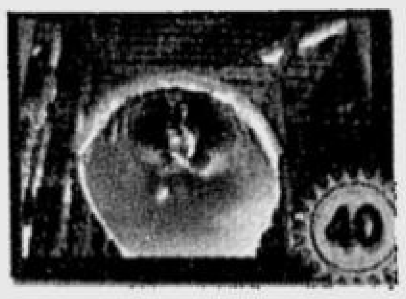
2 a sheet of paper, write a short description/essay of your entry, together with your name, address, telephone number, signature, entry date & theme. You may also include your 2x2 ID picture.

3 osen entries will receive one unit of **Canon BF 800 Camera.**

DEADLINE OF ENTRIES	PUBLICATION DATE	THEME
May 10	May 18	Fun in the Sun
May 17	May 25	Party Bloopers
May 24	June 1	Me and my Junior Inquirer
June 1	June 8	Me and my Dad
June 7	June 15	Best Friends in School
June 14	June 22	Things I Love Most
June 21	June 29	Happy Together
June 28	July 6	I Love my Mom
July 5	July 13	Kids @ Work

PRESENTED BY SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES INC.

During the culminating activity held last June 1, three outstanding entries were chosen each winning a Canon Prima BF 800 as prize:



BEST TECHNIQUE
Kyla Nicole Fabian

BEST SHOOTING
Ynna Benipayo

BEST PAINTED PICTURE
Nikki Gallardo

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SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

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PRIMA
BF-800

You could be missing on a chance to win a Canon BF 800 Camera

We are accepting entries coming from the young and the young-at-heart. Just send in your entries directly to Ms. Masoy of the Marketing Department (Philippine Daily Inquirer).

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

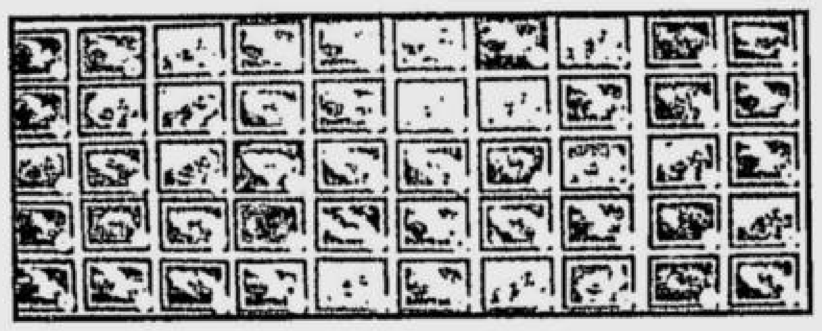
What happens when a newspaper giant Philippine Daily Inquirer and industry leader Canon Camera join forces?

"We all had a great time" says Dean Guerrero, one of the participants in the Summer Photography Workshop for Kids.

"We were taught how to use a camera, how to take care of it and more importantly, we were given the chance to shoot pictures" adds Mica.

Parents said it's worth the time and the effort bringing their kids to the workshop -- the photo exhibit proves that.

Best of all, everything's free! Courtesy of partner sponsors Super East Asia, Junior Inquirer, Kids@Work, Henlin, Kameraworld, Lactum and Nestle Chocolate.



Painted Pictures

Ice-breaker...

Super East SVP, Ms.Conchita Sy (L) awards the Certificate of Completion to workshop participants who were able to complete the 3-day workshop session.

Canon - Super East Asia's President William Sia (R) hands over the Plaque of Appreciation to Junior Inquirer's Marketing Director Donald Lim (L) for its generous support to the activity.

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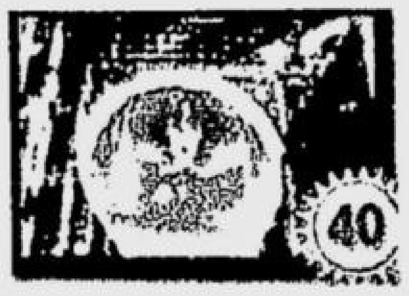

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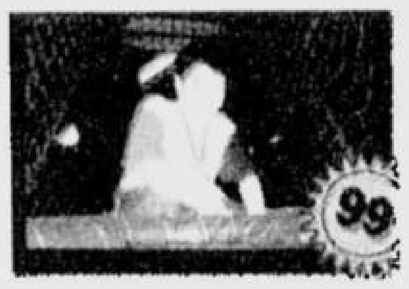

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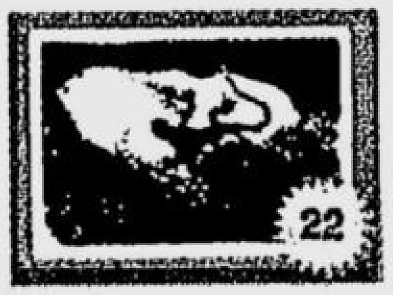

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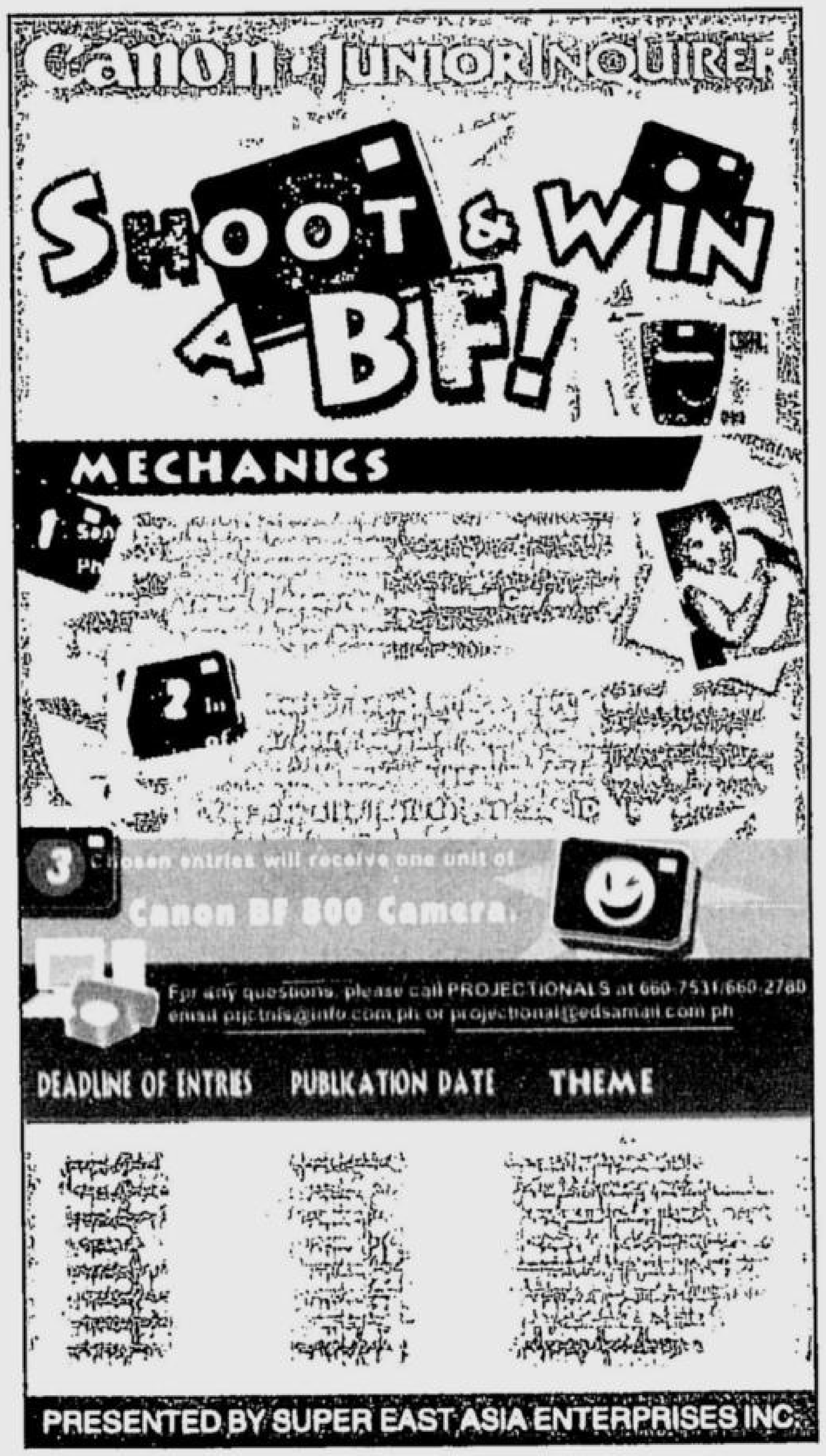
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SHOOT & WIN A BF!
MECHANICS
1
2
3

Chosen entries will receive one unit of Canon BF 800 Camera.

For any questions, please call PROJECTIONALS at 660-7531/660-2780 email pjctnls@info.com.ph or projectional@edsamail.com.ph

DEADLINE OF ENTRIES PUBLICATION DATE THEME

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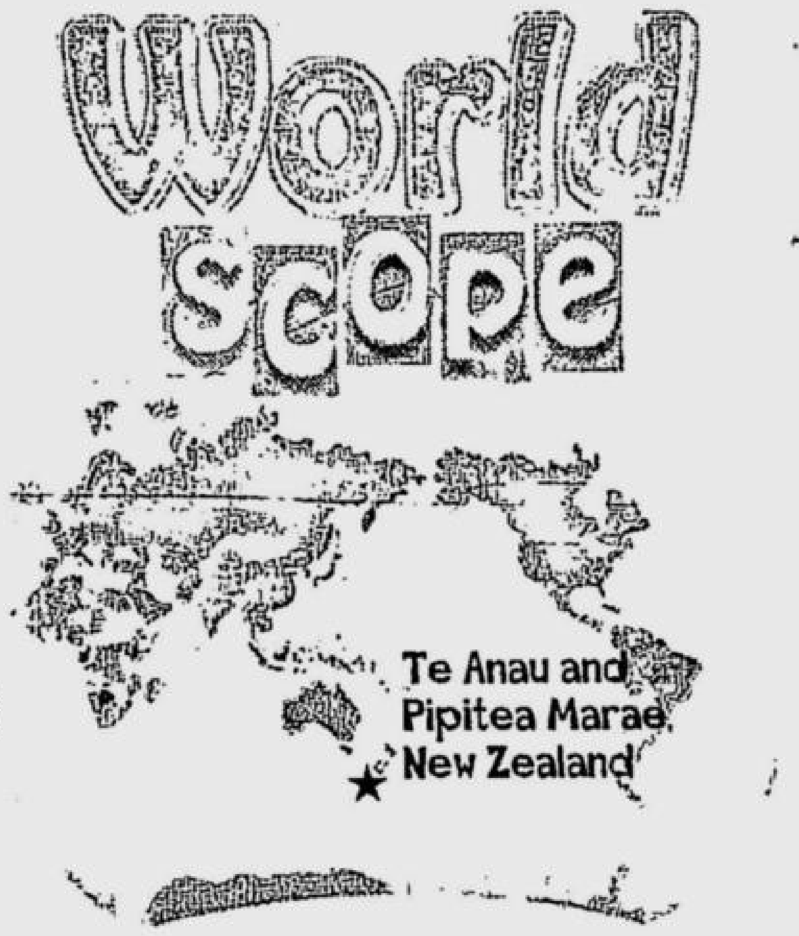
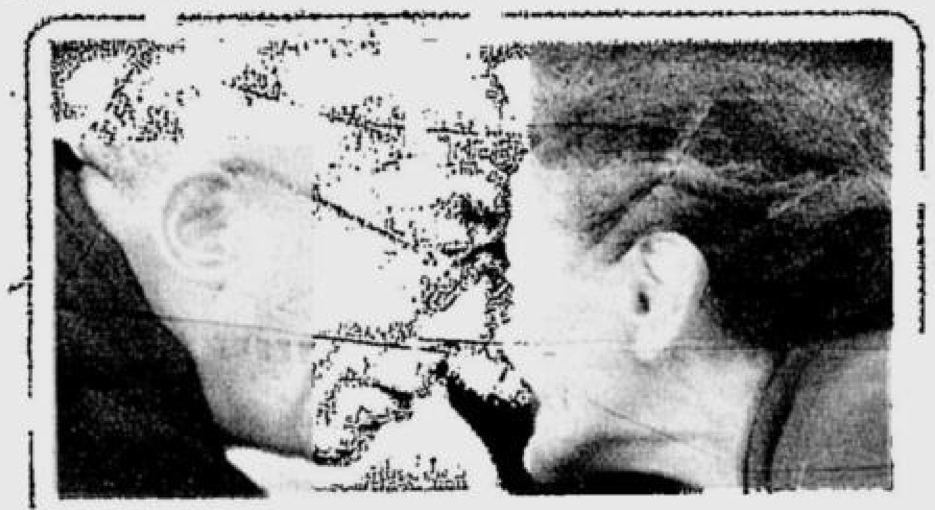
Hope for Marama.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Marama, the 11-week-old kakapo chick perched on her shoulder, have something to smile about. Kakapo (strigops habroptilus), a nocturnal owl-like flightless bird that climbs trees, remains an endangered species. But a 39-percent increase in its population has saved it from extinction. *AFP*


World Scope
Te Anau and Pipitea Marae, New Zealand



A Hongi Welcome.

Tenzin Gyatso, left, the 14th Dalai Lama and spiritual leader of Tibet, receives a traditional Maori "hongi" welcome from Deanlee Horua at Pipitea Marae near Wellington, before a "powhiri" in his honour. *AFP*

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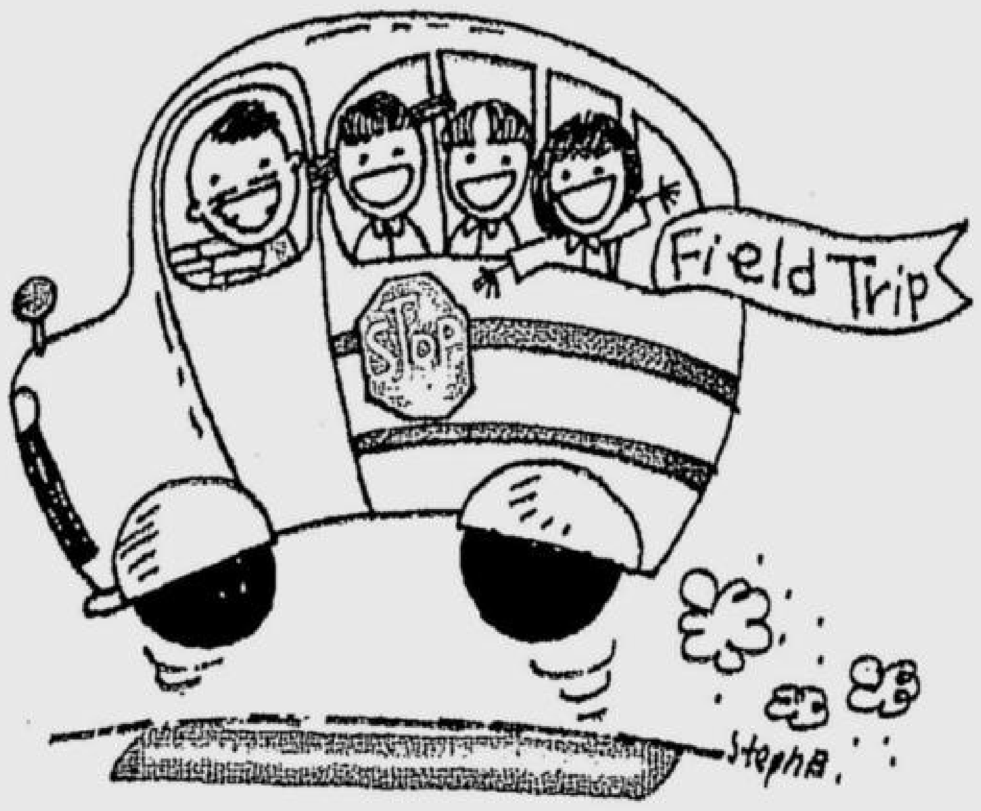
Journal Pages

Isang Paglalakbay

Ni April Glesilda M. Laurio
Colegio Sta. Isabel, Laguna



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Enero 23, 2002, Miyerkules, pagkatapos ng aming pagsusulit, namili ako kasama ang ilan sa aking mga kaeskwela ng ilang inumin at pagkain na aming babaunin kinabukasan. Iniihanda ko ang lahat ng aking dadalhin para sa field trip tulad ng pagkain, T-shirt, notebook, at ballpen. Natulog ako nang maaga upang magising agad ako kinabukasan. Ipinagdasal ko na sana ay maging maayos ang aming paglalakbay.

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Umalis kami sa paaralan nang pasado alas-5 dahil hinintay pa ang mga late-

Isang/ p. 5

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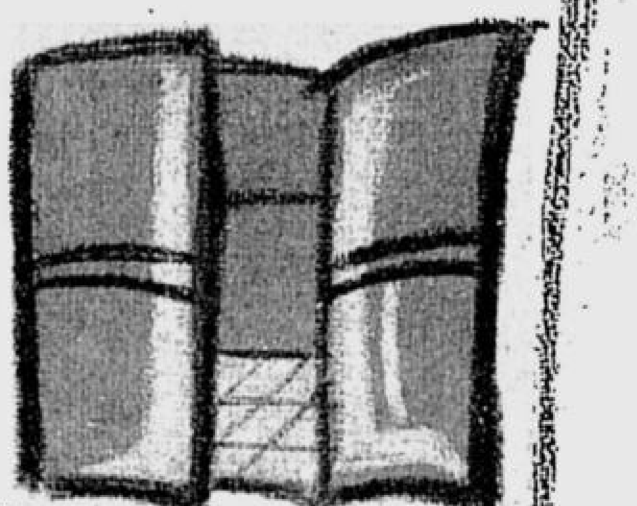
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



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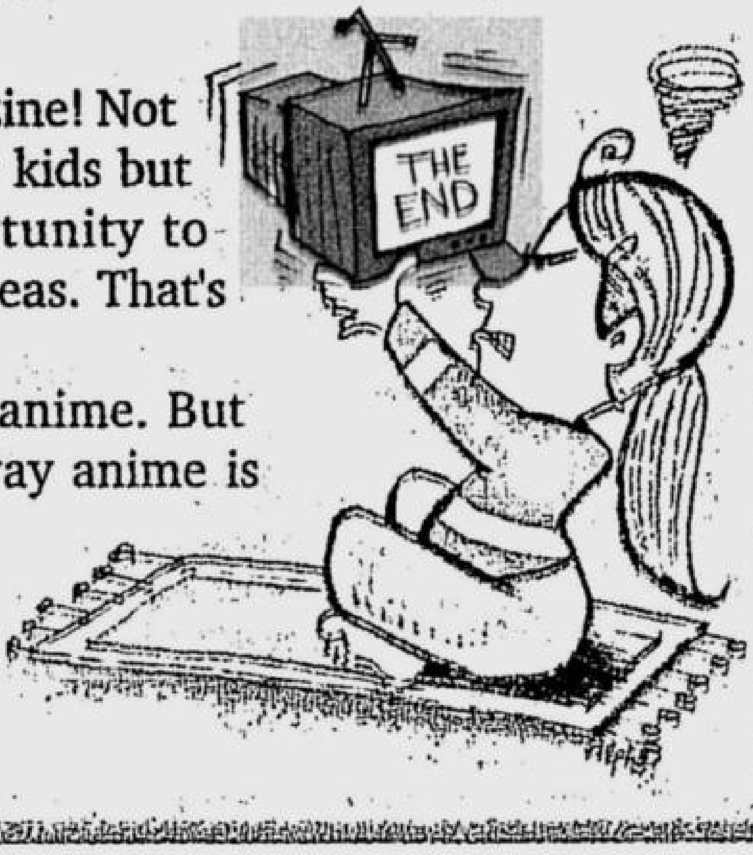

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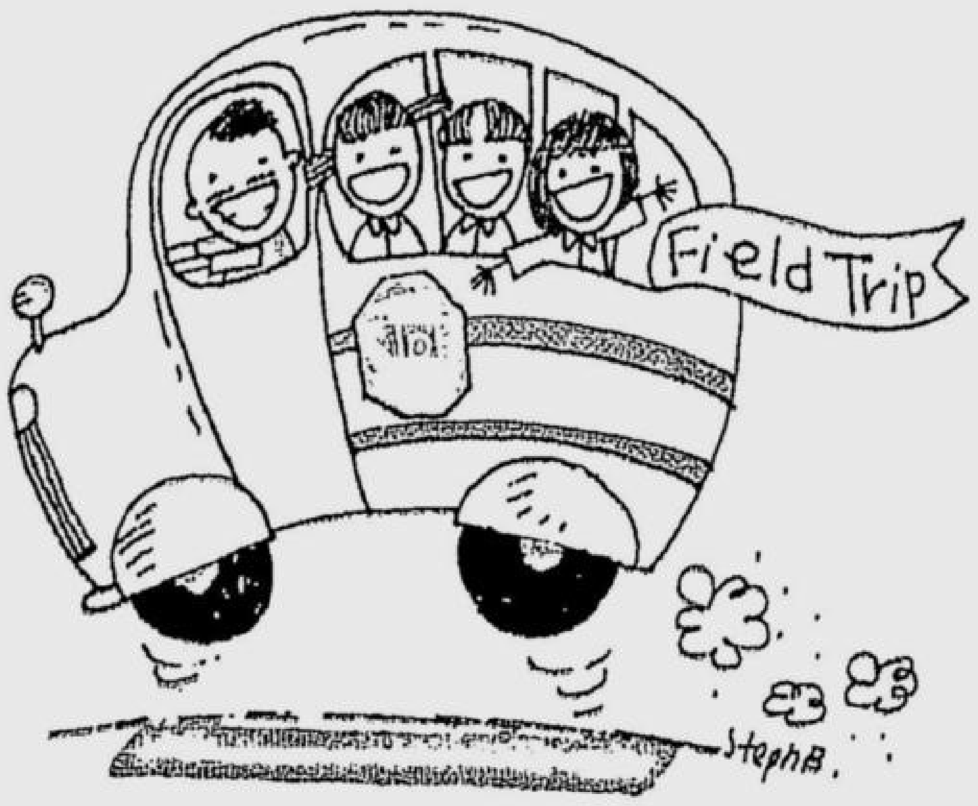

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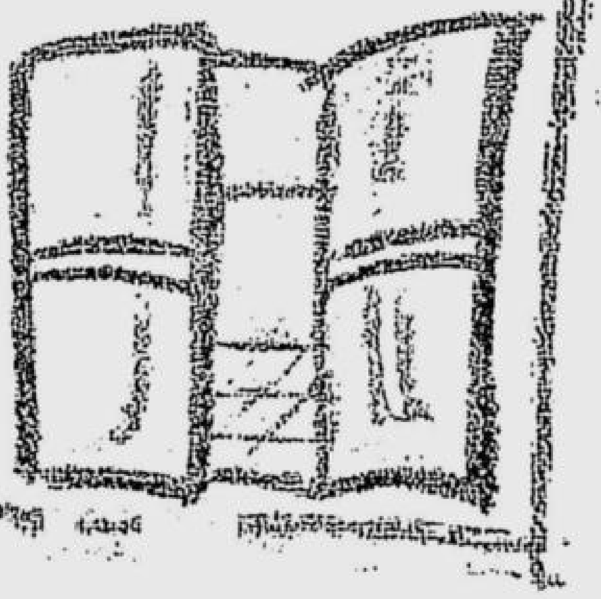

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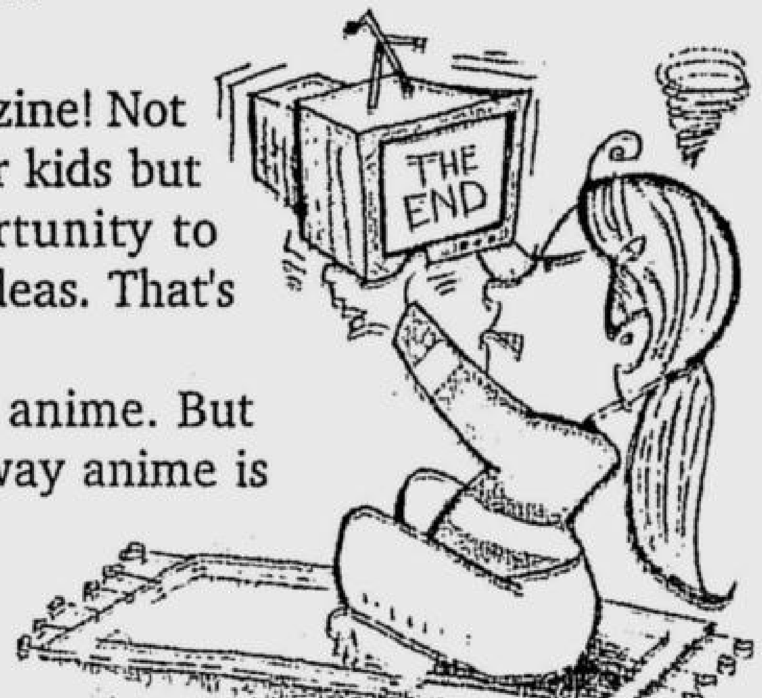

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Philippine Daily Inquirer,
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Makati Central Post Offic
1263 Makati City
Philippi

Isang Paglalakbay

(from page 4)

comers. Nakatabi ko sa upuan sina Dannika at Grace. Pinipilit kong makatulog habang kami ay nagbibiyahe ngunit hindi ako nakaidlip man lang kahit na isang oras. Pasado alas-8 nang dumating kami sa Science. Nanghinayang ako dahil hindi ko nasubukang ipasok ang aking sarili sa malaking bula dahil mahaba ang pila. Ngunit lubos ko namang ikinatuwa ang pagtakbo upang ma-break ang record ni Elma Muroz. Nasubukan ko ring makita ang iba't ibang kulay ng aking anino at mahiwalay ang aking anino sa aking katawan. Pagkatapos ng isang oras, lumipat naman kami sa Museo Pambata. Sunod naming pinuntahan ang Fort Santiago. Dito kami nag-salo-salo ng aming mga tanghalian. Pagkatapos naming kumain ay sumakay na kami sa kalesa. Pumunta kami sa Rizal Shrine, kung saan nakita ko ang pinagkulungan sa ating pambansang bayaning si Rizal, ang kanyang akdang Noli at Fili, ang kanyang mga damit na halos naaagnas na.

Bumili rin ako ng ilang souvenir items na makikita doon. Gusto ko sanang bumili ng isang painting kaya lang ay hindi nakayanan ng aking bulsa. Pagkatapos ng matagal na pamamalagi sa Fort Santiago, tumungo naman kami sa Planetarium. Mabuti na lamang at hindi ako nakatulog at hindi rin masyadong nangawit ang aking leeg sa pagtingala. Ang huli naming pinuntahan ay ang Nayong Pilipino. Nakalulungkot isipin na ang isang lugar tulad nito ay magiging bahagi na lamang ng isang paliparan. Sumakay ako sa bike at nakipagkarera sa aking mga kaklase. Hindi ko man nalibot ang buong Pilipinas ay para ko na rin itong nalibot dahil sa Nayong Pilipino.

Lubos akong nasiyahan sa maikling panahon ng aking paglalakbay. Manghihinayang ako marahil kung hindi ako sumama sa masayang paglalakbay na ito.

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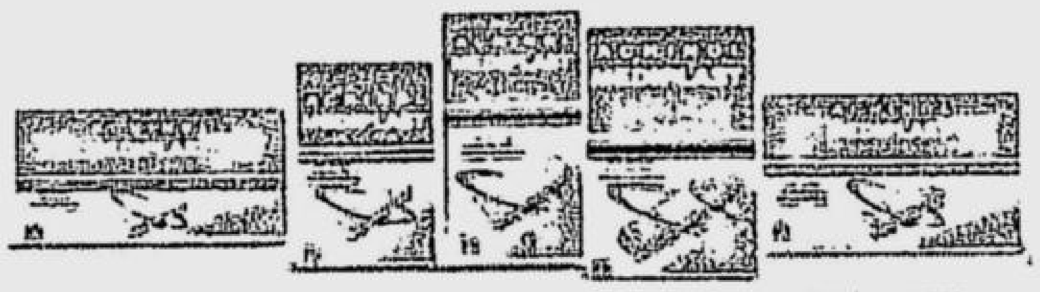

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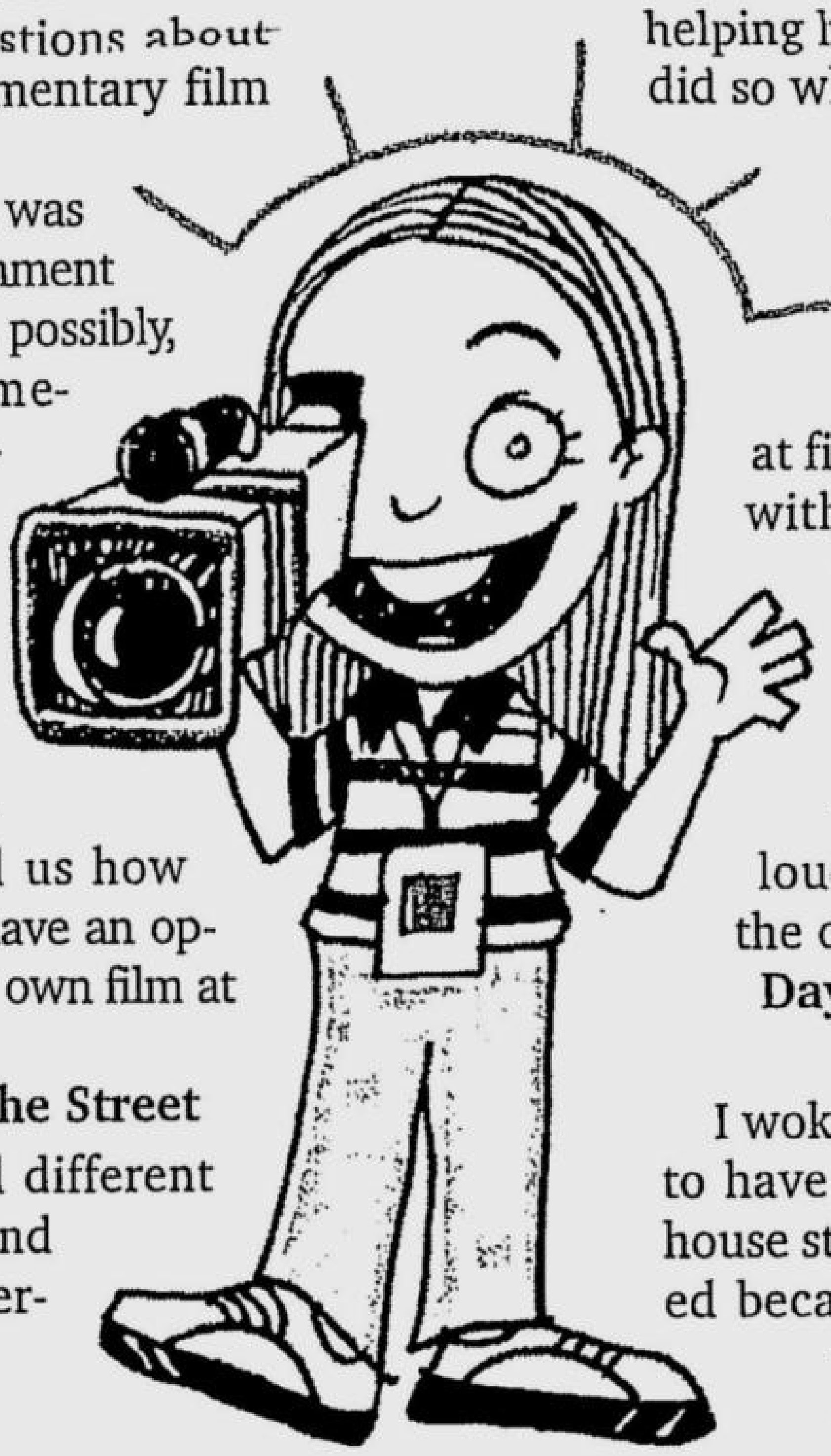
So Shoot... (from page 1)

We were all surprised because one of the two who did that eye-opening film, Nana Buxhani, spent the whole afternoon with us. She answered our questions about the film and documentary film making.



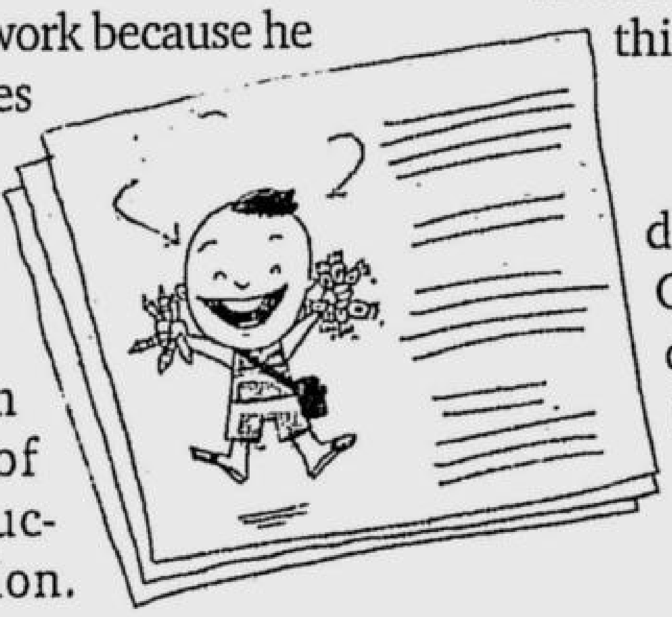
She said the film was intended for government officials to see and possibly, hopefully do something about it. Sadly, years after the film was finished and shown, nothing much had been done on the problem of child labor. She also told us how lucky we were to have an opportunity to do our own film at a very young age.

Day 3: Man on the Street

We interviewed different kinds of people and became camerapersons in our exercise for the day. We were given the whole morning to find people around Shaw Blvd to interview.

Know what? Not all people are "game" for an interview. Our first 'victim' (as I should call it) was a mother and a son who just came from the market. I was the cameraperson and Jayson was the interviewer. Later, I interviewed a fish ball vendor, then enjoyed eating fish balls afterwards. Hehe!

Mr. Corre gave comments on the scenes that we shot. He pointed out the right things we did during our exercise. For example, we did not forget to ask the consent of the person to be interviewed. He was impressed by our work because he said that "the interviewees were not intimidated" and we did a good job on taking shots.



Our Film

The TV production process is composed of pre-production, production and post-production. We used these parts as a guide in brainstorming our film. Our group chose Noel Dizon, a 9-year-old kid we interviewed in an SSS office. He sells candies and ball pens. At first, we thought that Noel was another child labor story. But after we interviewed him, we found out that he just was helping his uncle during school break. And he did so wholeheartedly.

Day 4: On Location, Direk!

We had the whole afternoon to shoot on location for our subject. Our group went to Noel's house in Marikina City. We couldn't find it at first. But when we did, Noel greeted us with an overwhelming smile. We were very thankful that his Tito Boy and Tita Marlyn allowed us to interview them. At first, Noel was nervous, but after a while, he started talking louder and even joked around the camera.

Day 5: Disappointment and Then Some

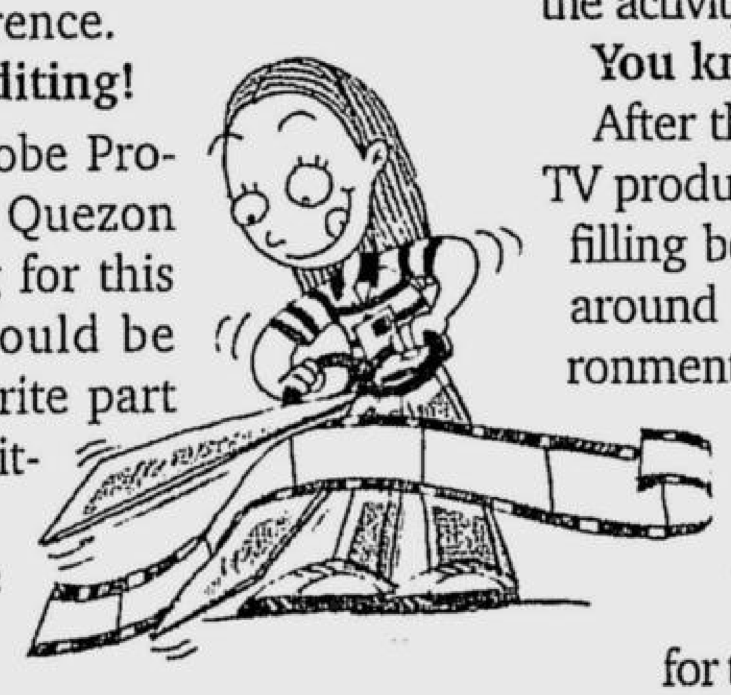
I woke up at 4 a.m. We were going to have a whole day shoot at Noel's house starting at 6 a.m. I was so excited because I would be experiencing what those people behind those TV shows were experiencing. Mind you, it's hard waking up at 4 a.m. during vacation!

I was disappointed because Noel and his uncle had already left when we arrived. But our facilitator, explained that it's all part of the process.

So, we headed to Shaw Blvd to document Noel while vending. We also went to SSS East Ave. to interview Noel's mom, Ms Nene Dizon. She was happy because we chose her son as our subject. Aling Nene explained that Noel is a really good son and nephew.

This day was a really tiring day because we were shooting under the heat of the sun. But it was fun because I knew that we were doing this to make a difference.

Day 6: I Love Editing!



I went to the Probe Productions Office in Quezon City. I waited long for this day because I would be learning my favorite part of production: editing!

I thought before that after you captured footages and interviewed people, you'd just edit it right away. But I was wrong. We had to do a lot of things before that like transcribing interviews, making a shot list and, of course, brainstorming for the script. *Dami no?*

I have to say, shot listing is a very complicated job. You have to describe every scene and you have to write the time code of every scene!

Our facilitator was amused at us because she had ten thousand ideas in her mind but we couldn't even come up with one!

After we've finished our brain-draining script, I volunteered to go first in editing. The editing machine is a really interesting machine, especially its huge remote control. The editing process is like editing a composition; it's just that you're editing images.

MS. CHE CHE
Steph.

Day 7: Graduation

It was our last day. I went to the office and met my group mates to continue the editing. We are only required to produce a 2-3 minute segment. But it took us one and a half days to do it. I was so excited because Che-Che Lazaro of the Probe team and Dr. Terrel Hill of UNICEF were some of the people who were going to watch our segments.

We all arrived at Astoria Plaza catching our breath because we were already an hour late for the culminating activity because of the editing. But it was all worth the run because the guests found our segments impressive. Each of them gave their comments and said our works overwhelmed them all. Dr. Hill said that it's really different the way a child sees things. He was thankful that we, the participants reached UNICEF's goal to promote children's rights. We were given press I.D.s after the activity.

You know what...

After that week-long workshop, I learned that TV production is a really hard job. Yet it was fulfilling because I knew we were helping people around us to see the things beyond their environment and to see reality in a different way.

I truly and genuinely respect those people who work for TV. It is a really hard job. It takes a lot of time and effort and sacrifices just to cover and produce a story for the public. And the videography workshop really gave a boost to my confidence that I can be what I want to be in the future.

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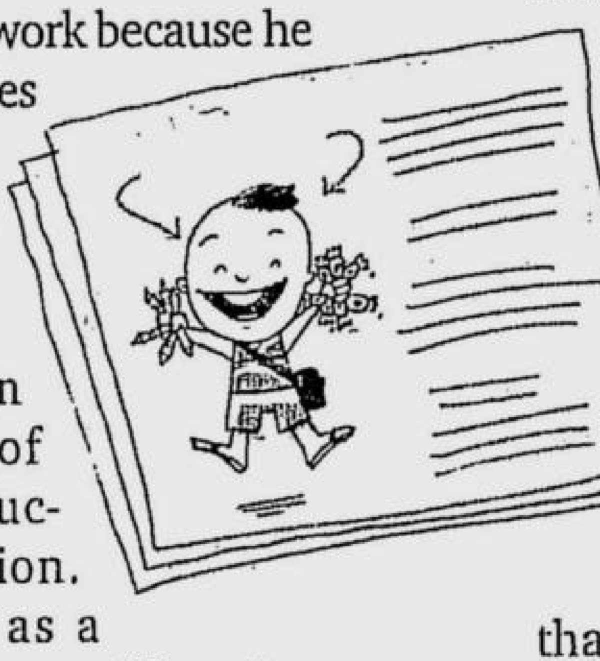

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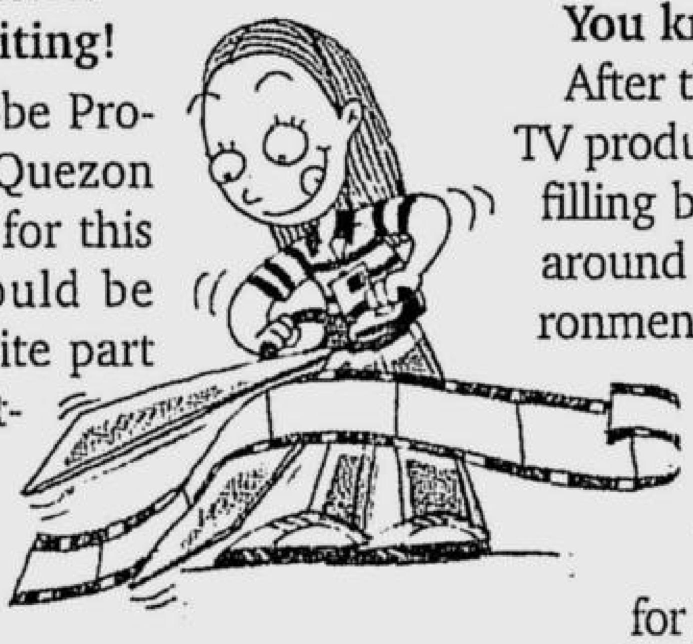
I went to the Probe Productions Office in Quezon City. I waited long for this day because I would be learning my favorite part of production: editing!

I thought before that after you captured footages and interviewed people, you'd just edit it right away. But I was wrong. We had to do a lot of things before that like transcribing interviews, making a shot list and, of course, brainstorming for the script. *Dami no?*



I have to say, shot listing is a very complicated job. You have to describe every scene and you have to write the time code of every scene!

Our facilitator was amused at us because she had ten thousand ideas in her mind but we couldn't even come up with one!

After we've finished our brain-draining script, I volunteered to go first in editing. The editing machine is a really interesting machine, especially its huge remote control. The editing process is like editing a composition; it's just that you're editing images.

Day 7: Graduation

It was our last day. I went to the office and met my group mates to continue the editing. We are only required to produce a 2-3 minute segment. But it took us one and a half days to do it. I was so excited because Che-Che Lazaro of the Probe team and Dr. Terrel Hill of UNICEF were some of the people who were going to watch our segments.

We all arrived at Astoria Plaza catching our breath because we were already an hour late for the culminating activity because of the editing. But it was all worth the run because the guests found our segments impressive. Each of them gave their comments and said our works overwhelmed them all. Dr. Hill said that it's really different the way a child sees things. He was thankful that we, the participants reached UNICEF's goal to promote children's rights. We were given press I.D.s after the activity.

You know what...

After that week-long workshop, I learned that TV production is a really hard job. Yet it was fulfilling because I knew we were helping people around us to see the things beyond their environment and to see reality in a different way.

I truly and genuinely respect those people who work for TV. It is a really hard job. It takes a lot of time and effort and sacrifices just to cover and produce a story for the public. And the videography workshop really gave a boost to my confidence that I can be what I want to be in the future.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OUT THERE

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Events

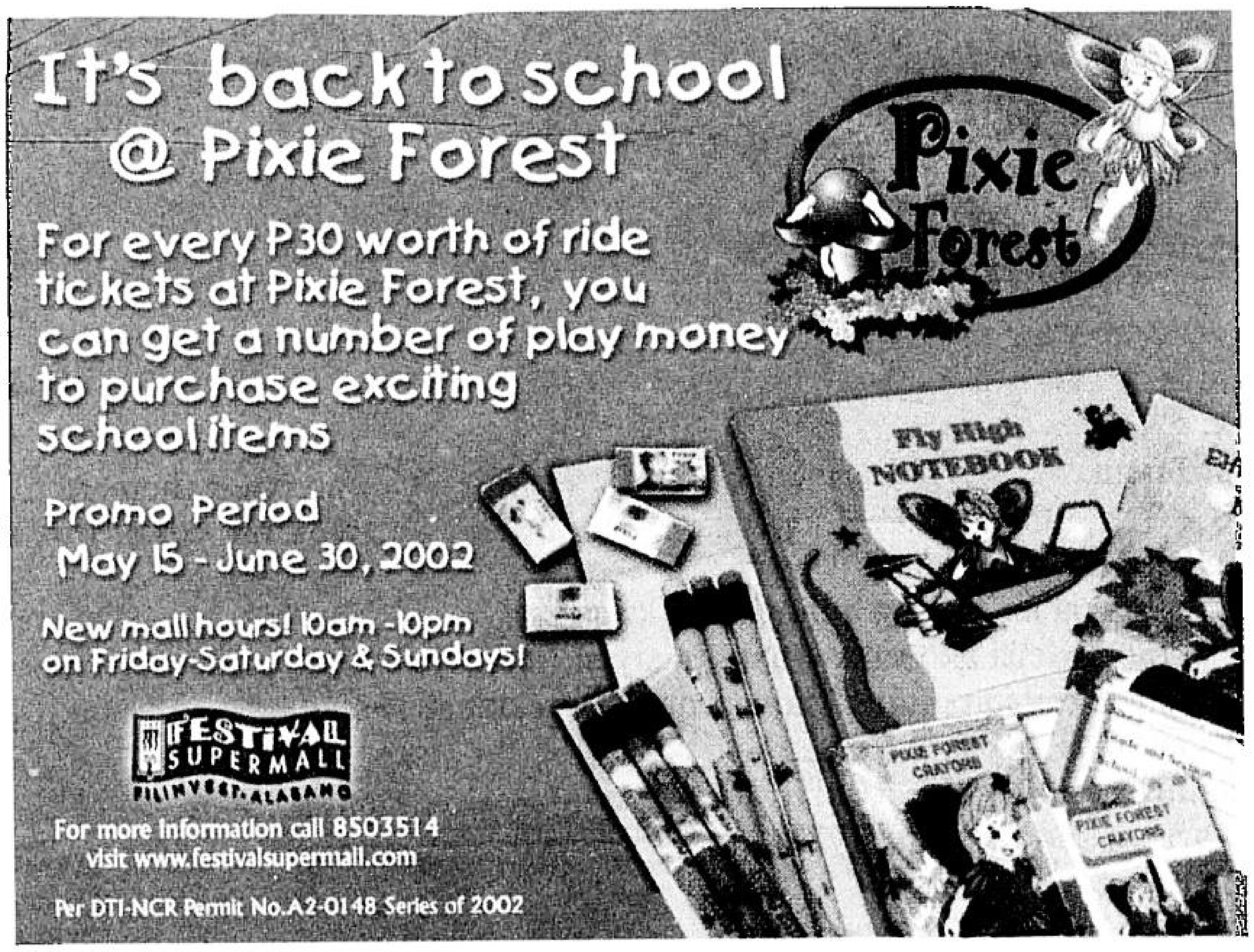
AT MUSEO PAMBATA. Celebrate the 431st Araw ng Maynila on June 23 with Museo Pambata's lineup of activities. There will be a special exhibit on Mayor Lito Atienza, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and the city councilors "Noong Bata Pa Sila". There will also be a a special puppet show to be presented by the Manila City Library Puppeteers. Kid and adult residents of Manila get in for free. Just bring a valid ID. For more info, please call 523-1797/98.

Movies

SCOOBY DOOBY DOO! Yes, your favorite dog Scooby-Doo will soon be seen on the big screen in the live action adventure "Scooby-Doo"! Summoned by the mysterious Emile Mondavarious, Scooby and his friends Shaggy, Fred, Velma, and Daphne goes to Spooky Island. There they investigate the paranormal incidents at the Spring Break resort, owned by Mondavarious. Join the gang when the mystery; fun and adventure begin on June 19 in Metro Manila theaters.

Cable Picks

HUMAN FISH. Freediver Trevor Hutton defies the depths of the ocean in "The Deeper Blue: A Freediver's Story". He dares to explore the underwater without the use of any breathing device or swimming aid. Watch the emotional roller-coaster that Trevor, his family and friends go through in his attempt to break the world free-apnea diving record of 245 feet. Will Trevor make it? Find out on June 19 at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.


It's back to school @ Pixie Forest

For every P30 worth of ride tickets at Pixie Forest, you can get a number of play money to purchase exciting school items

Promo Period
May 15 - June 30, 2002

New mall hours! 10am -10pm on Friday-Saturday & Sundays!

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST, ALABANG

For more information call 8503514
visit www.festivalsupermall.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A2-0148 Series of 2002
Pixie Forest
Fly High NOTEBOOK
PIXIE FOREST CRAYONS
PIXIE FOREST CRAYONS

Panatang Makabaon

Iniibig ko ang Cheezee.
Ito ang aking kesong
sinilangan.
Ito ang palaman
ng aking baon.
Ako'y kanyang binubusog
at pinalulusog
upang maging malakas,
maligaya at ngayon
may pamigay pa na
kapakipakinabang.
Bilang ganti ay bibili ako
ng Cheezee, kasama ang
aking mga magulang.

Cheezee®

Get a **FREE** kiddie tumbler with every 250g jar of Cheezee Spread, and a **FREE** Kuchador with every 200g Cheezee.
Available at selected supermarkets and groceries. Offer good until July 26, 2002.

Collect all 3 Kuchador! Collect all 4 kiddie tumblers!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0368 and 0369, Series of 2002

OUT THERE

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Events

AT MUSEO PAMBATA. Celebrate the 431st Araw ng Maynila on June 23 with Museo Pambata's lineup of activities. There will be a special exhibit on Mayor Lito Atienza, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and the city councilors "Noong Bata Pa Sila". There will also be a a special puppet show to be presented by the Manila City Library Puppeteers. Kid and adult residents of Manila get in for free. Just bring a valid ID. For more info, please call 523-1797/98.

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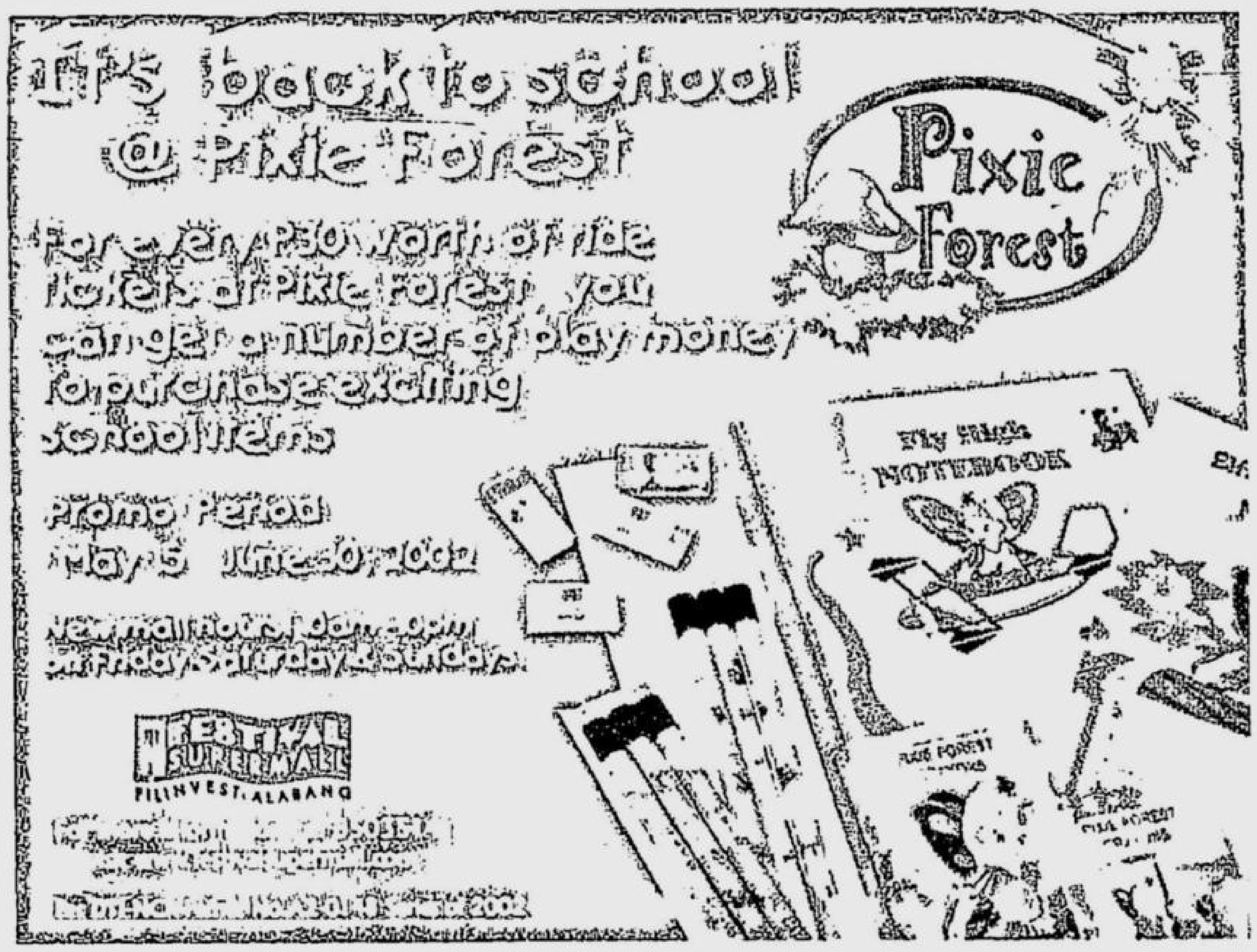
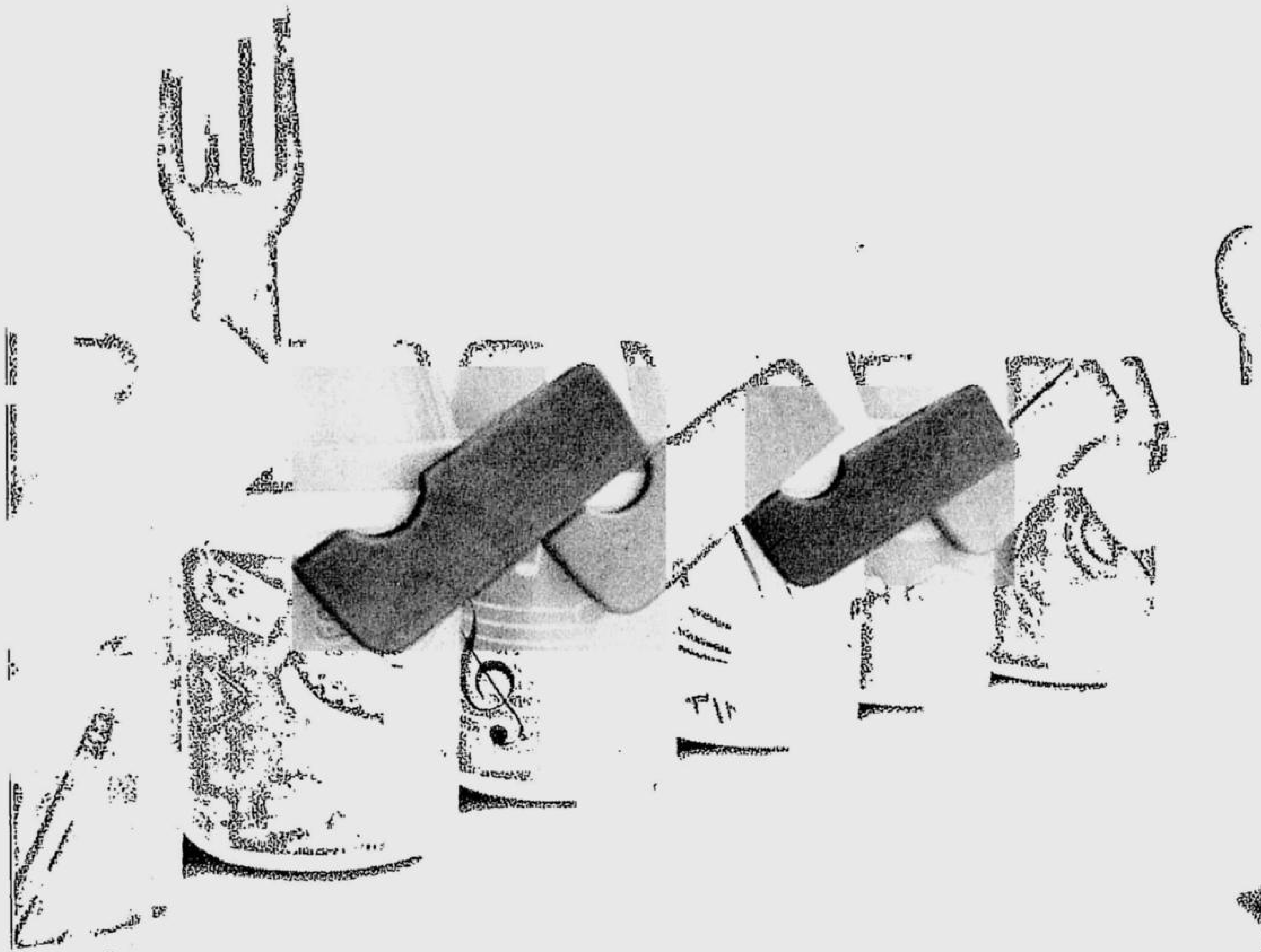

It's back to school @ Pixie Forest

For every P30 worth of ride tickets at Pixie Forest, you can get a number of play money to purchase exciting school items

Promo Period May 5 - June 30, 2002

New mall hours 10am-9pm on Friday, Saturday & Sunday

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST, ALABANG



Panatang Makabaon

Iniibig ko ang Cheezee.
Ito ang aking kesong
sinilangan.
Ito ang palaman
ng aking baon.
Ako'y kanyang binubusog
at pinalulusog
upang maging malakas,
maligaya at ngayon
may pamigay pa na
kapakipakinabang.
Bilang ganti ay bibili ako
ng Cheezee, kasama ang
aking mga magulang.

Cheezee®

Get a FREE kiddie tumbler with every 250g jar of Cheezee Spread. and a FREE Kuchador with every 200g Cheezee.
Available at selected supermarkets and groceries. Offer good until July 26, 2002.

Cheezee
Cheezee Spread

Collect all 3 Kuchador! Collect all 4 kiddie tumblers!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0368 and 0369 Series of 2002

Sul

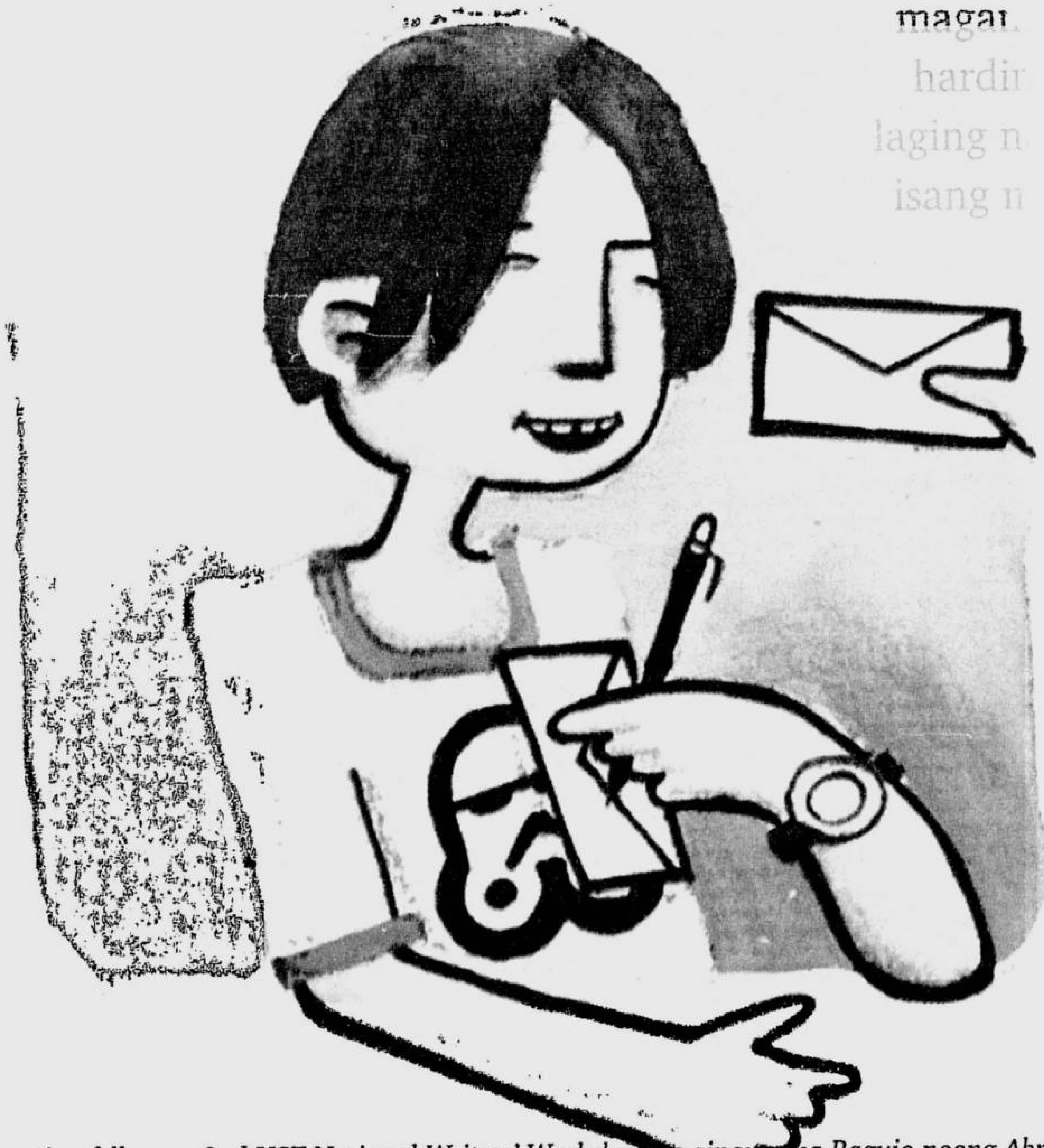
Kuwento ni Ge
Guhit ni

Dear Bryan,

Sana okey ka tulad ko.
Matagal-tagal na rin ang huling sulat ko sa iyo.
Medyo abala kasi ako sa pag-aaral ngayon (alam kong pati ikaw) dahil malapit na ang Marso. Pangako sa akin ni Nanay, pag matataas ang mga grades ko, dadalaw kami d'yan sa Bulacan. Kaya't sa bakasyon, tiyak na magkikita tayo.
Kamusta na ang ating laruan? Wala kasing gaanong bukid dito, puro dagat. Kamusta na si Mang Ruben? Masarap pa rin ba ang kanyang tindang fishball? Kamusta na ang iyong Nanay at Tatay? Ang iba nating mga kaibigan? Ikumusta mo na lang ako sa kanila. Sabihin mong nami-miss ko na sila.
Nadadaan ka pa ba sa aming dating bahay? Siguro ibang-iba na ano? Matagal na rin kaming tumira do'n sa bahay na `yon. Maganda pa rin ba ang hardin? Kulay-blue pa rin ba ang gate? Marami na sigurong nabago.
Lagi kitang ikinukuwento sa aking mga kaklase dito. Gusto nga rin nilang makita ka. Sabi nila, siguro, mabait ka raw na kaibigan. Oo naman ang sabi ko.
Mababait din sila. Apat kaming laging magkakasama. Si Jethro na medyo mataba, si Joshue na crush ng aking mga kaklaseng babae, si Aeron na pinakamatalino sa amin, at si Justin ang magaling magdrowing. Hayaan mo, dadalhin ko `yung mga pictures namin noong Christmas Party namin sa school para makita mo sila.
O sige na, ikaw naman ang magbalita sa akin. Gagawa pa ako ng aking assignment sa school, kailangang sundin ko ang promise ko kay Nanay para matuloy ang pagdalaw namin sa inyo sa darating na bakasyon.

Bye!
Ang iyong kaibigan,
Michael

“Tung
inyong
maga
hardi
laging
isang



*Si **Genaro** ay isa sa mga naging fellow sa 2nd UST National Writers' Workshop [illegible] sa Baguio noong Abril*
*Si **Marcus** ay mahilig mag-eksperimento ng drowing at disenyo sa kanyang laboratoryo . Makikita at masusuri a*

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tan

enaro R. Gojo Cruz
Marcus Nada

l naman sa
ting bahay,
pa rin ang
aya lang,
abantay ang
aking aso.”

2001. Siya ay kasalukuyang nagtuturo sa mga bata.
g iba doon sa www.brainchildesignlab.com. Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

Kaibigang Michael,

Ayos lang ako dito.
Ibinalita ko kay Nanay na dadalaw kayo dito sa bakasyon at tuwang-tuwa siya. Buti naman daw, at magkikita-kita uli tayo.
Maraming akong ibabalita sa'yo na alam kong ikabibigla mo ang iba. Yung bukid na laruan natin, medyo lumiit na dahil sa itinatayong subdivision.
Nalulungkot nga ako. Sabi ni Nanay, wala naman kaming magagawa. Naisip ko, baka marami pa rin talaga ang kailangang magkabahay. Lagi kang itinatanong ni Mang Ruben sa akin. Tiyak na matutuwa siya kapag nalaman niyang dadalaw kayo dito. Lalong sumarap ang sauce ng kanyang tindang fishballs. Lagi pa rin akong bumibili sa kanya.
Oo nga pala, magugulat ka sa aking ibabalita. May bago na akong kapatid. Noel ang pangalan niya. Walong buwan na siya. At siyempre ako ang nag-aalaga sa kanya. Marami na rin siyang kayang gawin. Sabi ng iba, kamukhang-kamukha ko raw si Noel. Minsan tinatawag siyang “Little Bryan”.
Tungkol naman sa inyong dating bahay, maganda pa rin ang hardin. Kaya lang, laging nakabantay ang isang malaking aso. Kaya natatakot akong sumilip. Iba na rin ang kulay ng inyong gate. Kulay-maroon na. Mabait naman ang nakatira sa inyong dating bahay, si Aling Dominga. Kaibigan na rin siya ni Nanay.
Tiyak na matutuwa ang ating mga kaibigan kapag nalaman nilang dadalaw ka sa bakasyon. Sobrang tagal na rin kasi nang lumipat kayo ng bahay. Marami na ang nagbago dito sa ating lugar pero hindi ang mga kaibigan mo.
Ikamusta mo na lang ako sa iyong mga kaibigan d'yan (3 J's at 1 A). At siyempre sa iyong Nanay at Tatay.
Excited na akong magbakasyon pero kailangan munang mag-aral ng mabuti.
Siguro matataas ang mga grades mo ano?
Ilangoy mo na lang ako sa mga dagat d'yan sa Mindoro.
O sige hanggang dito na lang muna.
Paalam!

Ang iyong matalik na kaibigan,
Bryan

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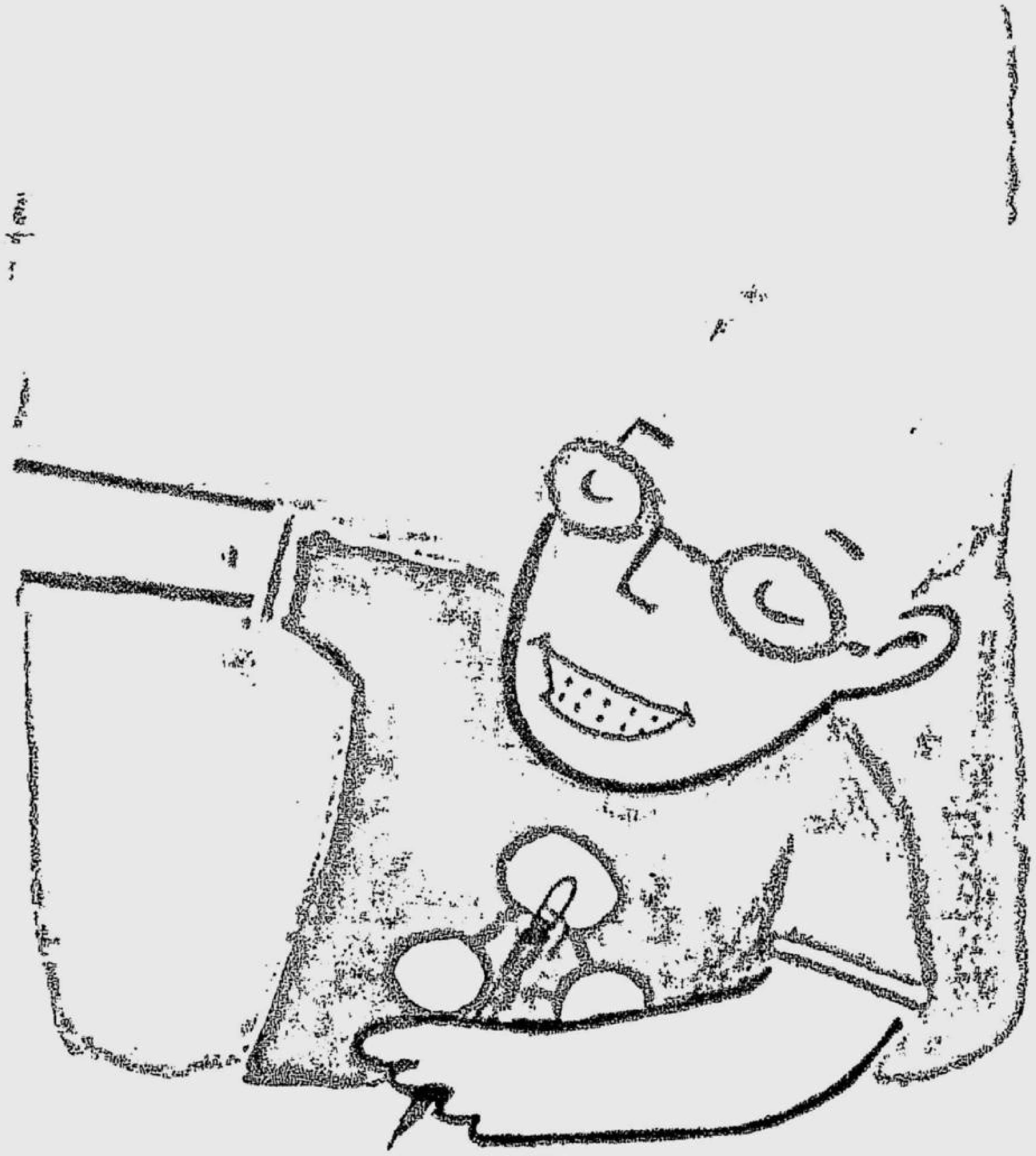
naro R. Gojo Cruz
Marcus Nada



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O sige hanggang dito na lang muna.
Paalam!

Ang iyong matalik na kaibigan,
Bryan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BUGS UNITE! Jomike's insect army made out of clay and paper guard their talented creator. DENNIS SABANGAN

A Lightbulb of an Idea

Twenty-year-old Jomike Tejido has come a long way from doodling on page margins and designing his trapper keepers

By Agatha Guidaben

FOR BOOK illustrator Jomike Tejido, everything started with a chest in the living room.

"I dug up a copy of Mad Magazine from this chest when I was in Grade 2," Jomike recalls, tapping the sala's center table. "I liked the cartoons on the page borders, so I tried drawing comic characters like that myself."

Much earlier than that, Jomike also remembers shaping clay dinosaurs when he was four. In grade school, he designed his notebook covers and trapper keepers himself with air brush art. He joined group art contests with his equally artsy circle of friends in third grade, but they seldom won.

"We joined just for fun," Jomike admits, although he had more luck later on. In June 2000, his entry, "Tehido ("The Way of the Hand of Fire" in Japanese)," won the AXN Anime Hero Drawing Contest and got featured in AXN-Asia's website. Several contests after that he became a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang Ink), drawing for various publications like Junior Inquirer and Adarna Publishing.

Aside from illustrating articles, Jomike also tries his hand in writing children's stories. He brings those crafts together in "Dindo Pundido," the first children's book he authored.

"Dindo Pundido is about a lightless firefly in search of his worth in the bug society," Jomike narrates. The idea came to him on his way home from the province. "I kept seeing the streetlights pass... the light bulbs looked like they were flying, so I imagined that they were fireflies."

Jomike has never had any formal lessons in drawing, clay art, or airbrush painting. He just developed these skills by experimenting on his school things. At 20, however, he intends to do more than painting notebook covers.

"I want to become an architect," the University of Sto. Tomas incoming junior says. "But on my way there, I'd like to continue illustrating books. I'd also like to do an album cover for a Pinoy band."

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
____________________.
Give him/her a call at __________
or send him/her an e-mail at ______
____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________
____________________.
I'm_________years old.
My address is____________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

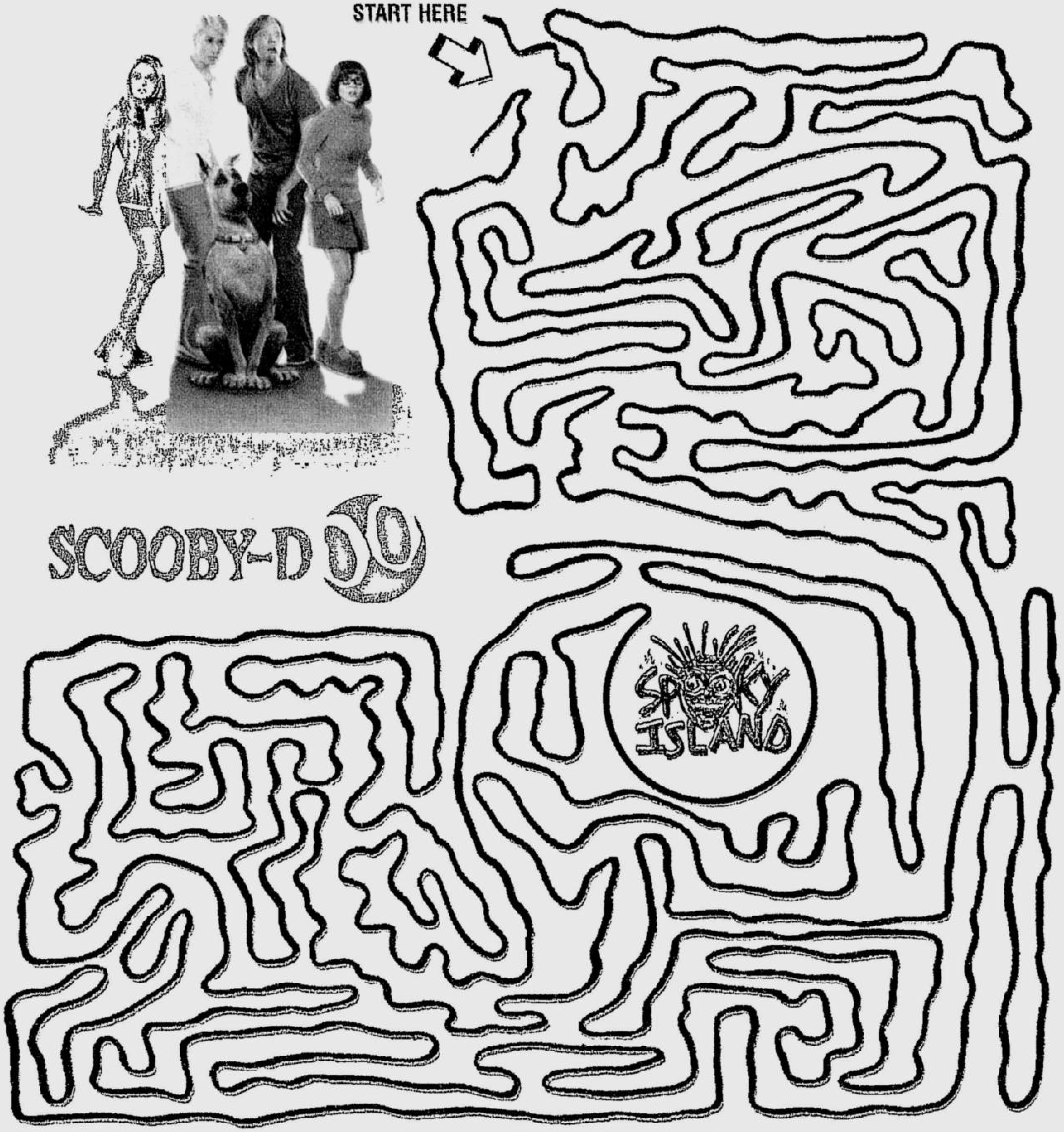
Junior Inquirer

WAVE 89.1

Warner Bros. Pictures

Mosaic Media Group

Help Scooby and "the gang" find their way to Spooky Island.


START HERE
SCOOBY-DOO
SPOOKY ISLAND

In Cinemas June 19

Philam Life

MOTOROLA

SM Foundation

UCPB

WG&A

adidas

PLANTERSBANK
Planters Development Bank

Full Circle

Kuya +

Nine-year-old Miguel Luis Isberto shows us how to be a good kuya… and more

By Agatha Guidaben

HE wakes up at 5 a.m. to give six-year-old Nico his bath and to look after two-year-old Toni. Later in the day, he volunteers to wash the dishes and helps out in the family business.

The great "kuya" that he is, that's the kind of responsibility Miggy takes on—and he's just nine years old.

"I take care of my brothers when my mom is not around," Miggy shares.

He is very dependable, his family says, "and independent, too," adds his Lola.

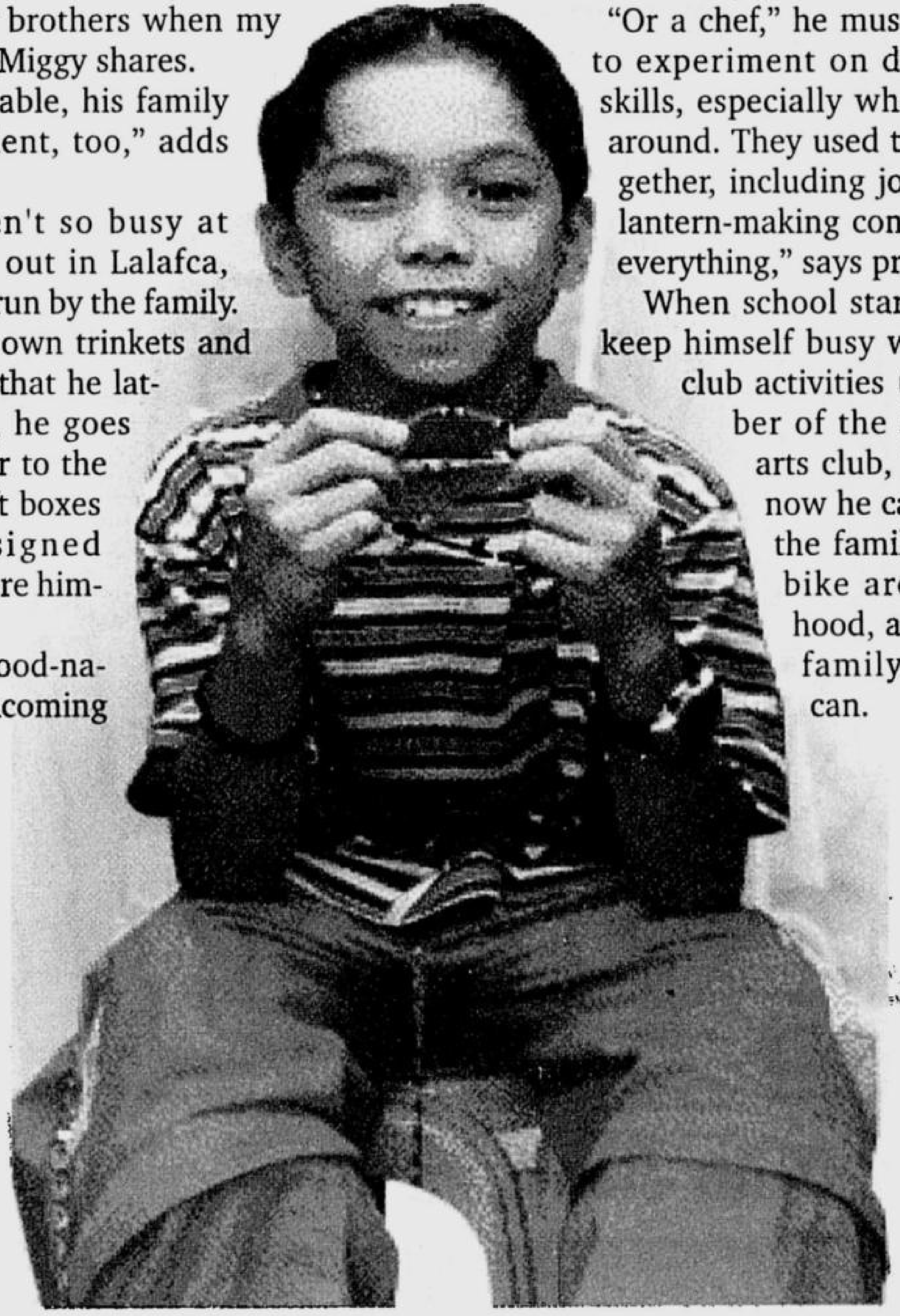
When things aren't so busy at home, Miggy hangs out in Lalafca, the novelty gift shop run by the family. There, he makes his own trinkets and friendship bracelets, that he later sells. Sometimes, he goes with his grandmother to the factory where the gift boxes are made—he designed some of the boxes there himself!

Miggy isn't only good-natured at home. The incoming fourth grader at the Blessed Trinity School in Las Piñas also proves to be equally well-mannered in school, having won awards in good conduct. He was accelerated to kinder and, since then, has been consistently receiving academic excellence awards. His highest scores are in Sibika, Math, and Science.

Perhaps that is why Miggy wants to become a scientist someday.

"Or a chef," he muses. After all, he likes to experiment on different things and skills, especially when his Lolo was still around. They used to do many things together, including joining (and winning) lantern-making contests. "He taught me everything," says proudly.

When school starts, Miggy will again keep himself busy with schoolwork and club activities (he's an active member of the school's performing arts club, by the way). But for now he can still play tennis on the family computer, ride his bike around the neighborhood, and yes… help out his family any which way he can.



ALL-AROUND. Miggy helps out any way he can, at home or at the family business. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
____
____
Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____
She/he lives at______________________
____
____
and studies at ______________________
____
Her/his contact number is:
____
Sender's Name: ______________________
____
Sender's Age & School: ______________________
____
Sender's Address: ______________________
____
Sender's Contact No.: ______________________
____
____

KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
CASIO

¿Thinkathon?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

WHERE'S DADDY?

LAST Mother's Day, we did a quiz on baby animals in search of their moms. This time—in celebration of Father's Day—the mission is to link each kiddie on the left column with its daddy on the right. (To help you out, we've again indicated what kind of creature/s each father is.)

____1. duckling

____2. chick

____3. piglet

____4. gosling

____5. kitten

____6. foal

____7. pup

____8. lamb

____9. kit

____10. fawn

____11. eyas

____12. kid

____13. calf

____14. cygnet

____15. joey

A. tom (cat)

B. buck (deer)

C. ram (sheep)

D. billy (goat)

E. rooster (chicken)

F. boomer (kangaroo)

G. drake (duck)

H.bull (cattle/elephant/whale)

I. stallion (horse)

J. tiercel (hawk)

K. boar (pig)

L. hob (ferrett)

M. cob (swan)

N. reynard (fox)

O. gander (goose)

Answers:

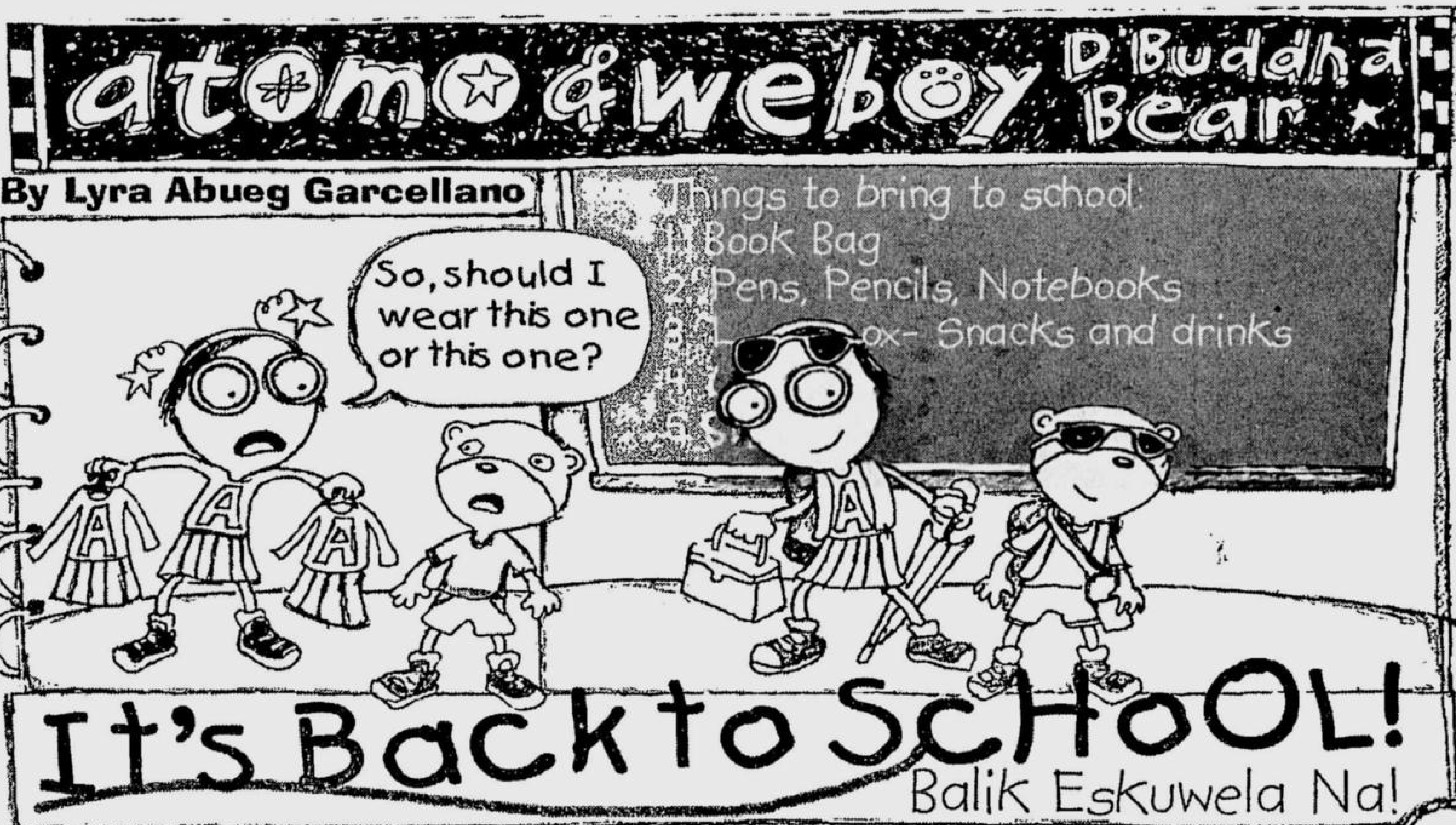
1. G
2. E
3. K
4. O
5. A
6. I
7. N
8. C
9. L
10. B
11. J
12. D
13. H
14. M
15. F

Ratings:

superbrain! 11-12

excellent! 9-10

good! 6-8


atomo & weboy D Buddha Bear
Things to bring to school:
1. Book Bag
2. Pens, Pencils, Notebooks
3. L ox- Snacks and drinks
So, should I wear this one or this one?
It's Back to SCHOOL!
Balik Eskuwela Na!

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

Try to form other words using the term:

EXtRa-CuRriCuLar

Only words with 4 or more letters are allowed.

Fill in the blanks!

L _ P I S
P E N _ _ L
N O T _ B O _ _
K U W _ D E _ N _
P _ S A _ A
BL _ CKB _ _ RD
A K _ A _
B _ O K
T E _ C H _ R
G U _ O

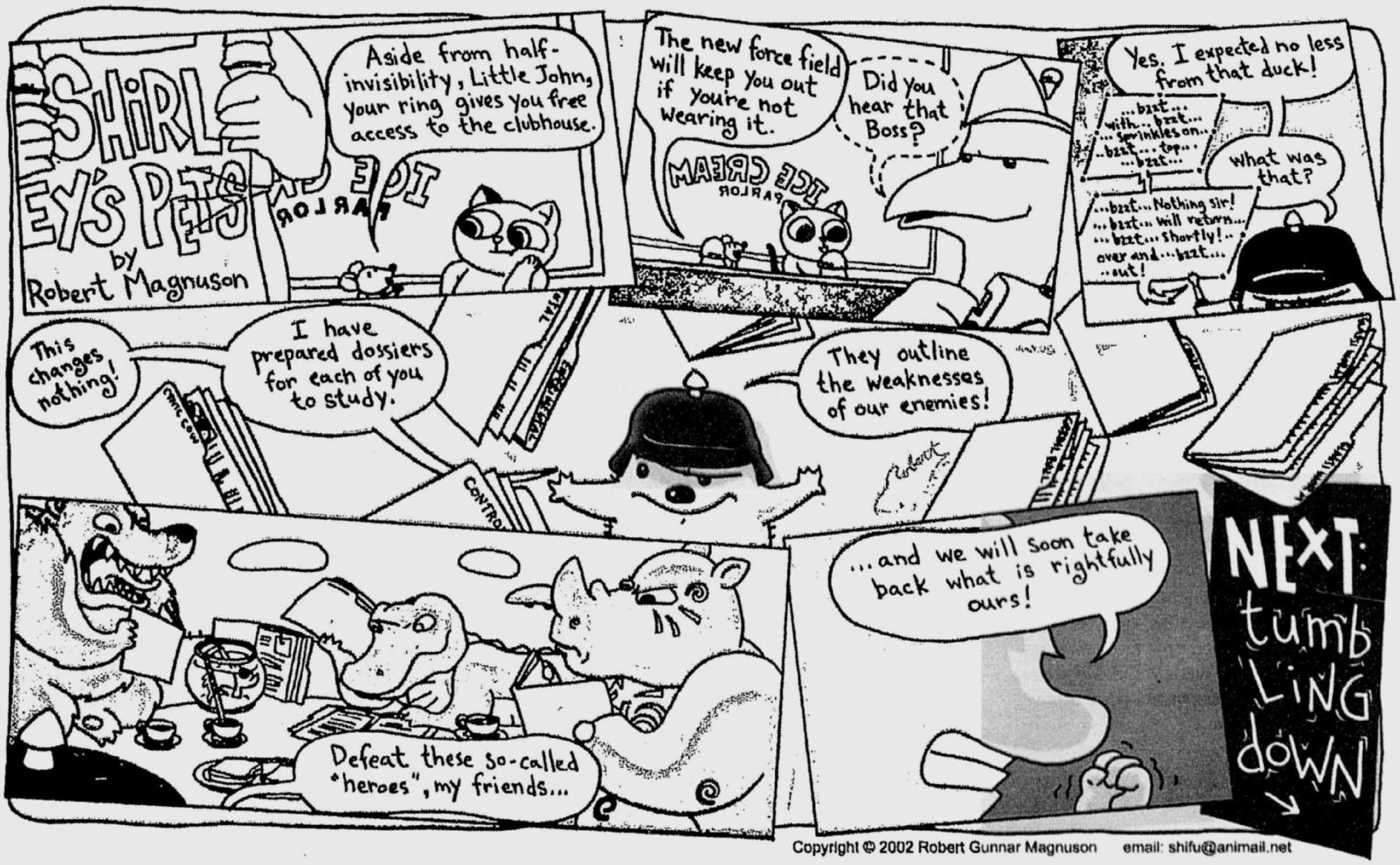
ANSWER:

alert, acute,cure, care, cart,
circle, circular, cute, curt,
curate, cruel, cruet, clear,
curtail, curricula, crux, curl,
crate, extra, late, later,
latex, lice,rural, rule, ruler,
racer, race, real, rare, rate,
rice, rail, tail, tale, trace,
tracer, trail, trailer, trice...
MAYBE YOU CAN COME UP
WITH MORE!

JUNIOR INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002

Last episode: Unbeknownst to Little John, his sister Sinatra Therese has "borrowed" his Junior Super-Hero ring. Unbeknownst to Sinatra, the junior-ring has the ability to render its bearer half-invisible whenever humans are near..


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by Robert Magnuson
ICE CREAM PARLOR
Aside from half-invisibility, Little John, your ring gives you free access to the clubhouse.
The new force field will keep you out if you're not wearing it.
Did you hear that Boss?
Yes. I expected no less from that duck!
...bzzt... with...bzzt... ...sprinkles on... ..bzzt... top... ...bzzt...
What was that?
...bzzt... Nothing sir! ...bzzt... will return... ...bzzt... shortly!.. over and...bzzt... ..out!
This changes nothing!
I have prepared dossiers for each of you to study.
They outline the weaknesses of our enemies!
Defeat these so-called "heroes", my friends...
...and we will soon take back what is rightfully ours!
NEXT: tumbLING down

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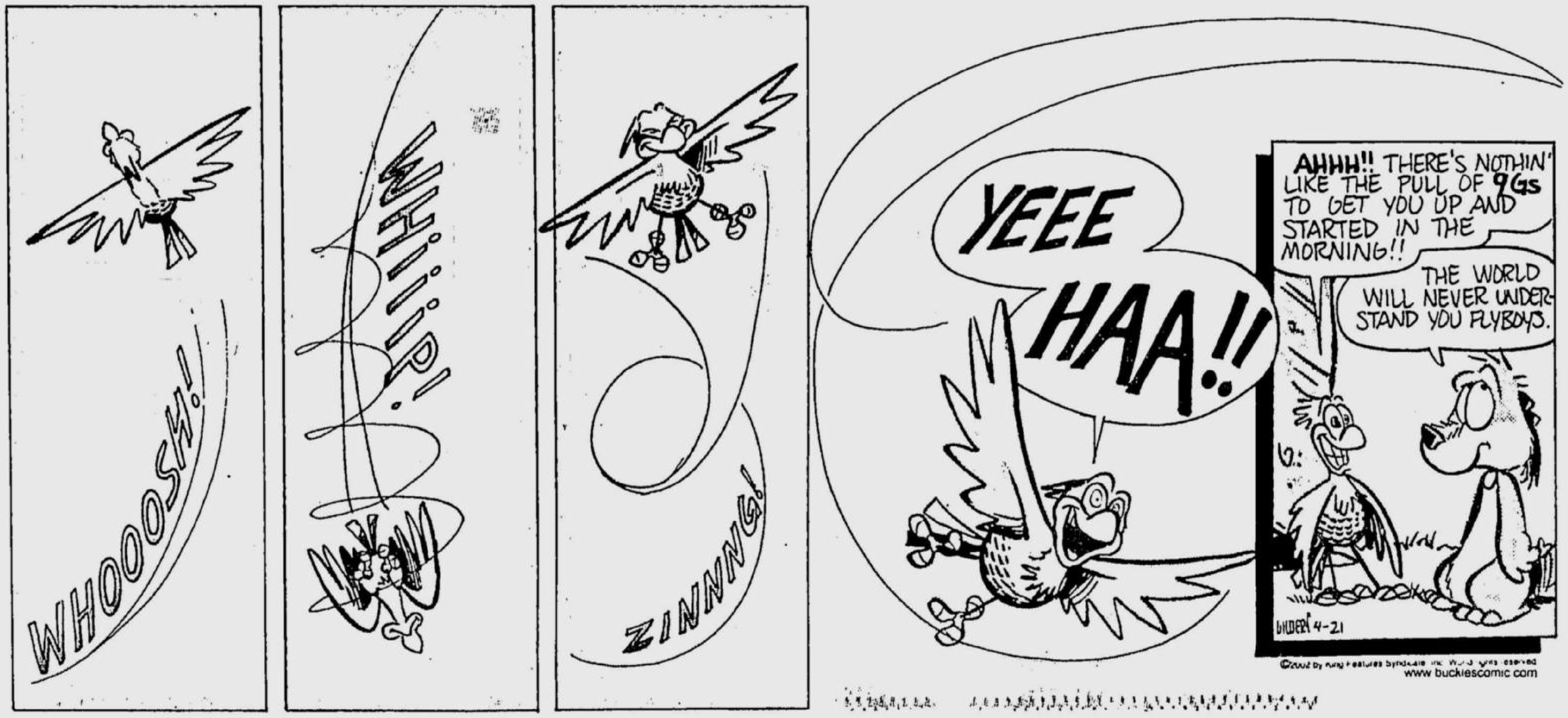
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHOOOSH!
WHiiiRR!
ZINNNG!
YEEE HAA!!
AHHH!! THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE THE PULL OF 9Gs TO GET YOU UP AND STARTED IN THE MORNING!!
THE WORLD WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU FLYBOYS.
GILBERT 4-21

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Season 3
DIGIMON
Digital Monsters®

DIGIMONTAMERS
DIGIMON 03

D-POWER Digivice™ Challenge

Competition Mechanics:

1. All aspiring D-Power players may join the DIGIVICE D-POWER CHALLENGE at Toy Kingdom, Megamall on Sunday, June 30, 2002 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Pre Registration will be available starting June 10 - 22, 2002 at the customer service of Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall.

2. Only Season 3 D - Power Digivice will be allowed in the competition. Thus, participants have to bring their own D - Power Digivice unit.

3. All registered participants will be paired randomly according to their assigned number .

4. Participants will battle with other D - Power Digivice's by connecting their Digivice and battle with D-Power Digimon characters, whoever wins the match, will get the points for that round.

5. There will be three rounds for this challenges namely Qualifying, Final and a special "clincher round"

    a. Qualifying Round
    During this round, contestants will be playing "best of three" matches among other contestants, players who have won 2 out of 3 games during this level will automaticall enter the Semi-final Round.

    b. Semi-Final Round
    In this level contestants will be playing a "round robin" battle wherein they will challenge each qualifier, only once. At the end of this round, the top 3 players with the most number of wins will battle for first, second and third place. In case of a tie, players will be playing another round.

    c. "Clincher" Round

    Regardless of their standing during previous battles, they will be playing new games in a "round robin- best of three" format. Judges will draw the names of first pair who will play for the first match and whoever wins during this round will be playing with the remaining players will continue after they have played with all the participants. The player with the most number of wins will be declared the Champion, next highest pointer will be the 1st Runner Up and last hightest pointer will be the 2nd Runner Up.

6. The first place winner will be the official Philippine representative to the DIGIMON ASIA CUP in Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong China on July 27 -28, 2002.

7. Should the winner opt not to participate in the DIGIMON ASIA CUP he/she will receive P 10,000.0 cash instead of the Hong Kong trip. The second place winner has the option to vie for the said competition but will only be entitled to the P7,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase in case he/she decided not to participate on the DIGIMON ASIA CUP.

8. Ban Kee Trading Inc. shall shoulder Airfare and Hotel accomodation for 3days and 2 nights of the winner plus one companion. All Tax and other expenses related to the Hong Kong trip will be to the winners account.

9. Winners Tax of 20% for prizes exceeding P 10,000.00 will be shouldered by Ban Kee Trading Inc.

10. Employees of Ban Kee Trading Inc. and SM Toy Kingdom and their relatives up to the second degree of consaguinity or affinity are disqualified to join the said competition.

11. Judge(s) decision is final and irrevocable.

PRIZES:

Champion:
P9,000 00 worth of Digimon product showcase.
Trip for Two (2) Hong Kong for 3 days and 2 nights
inclusive of Hotel Accomodation to be the official representative to the
DIGIMON ASIA CUP on July 27-28, 2002 or P 10,000.00 CASH

2nd Runner Up
P 7,000.00 worth of Digimon product showcase.

3rd Runner Up
P 5,000 00 worth of Digimon product showcase

ASIA CUP

Junior INQUIRER

TOY KINGDOM

BANDAI

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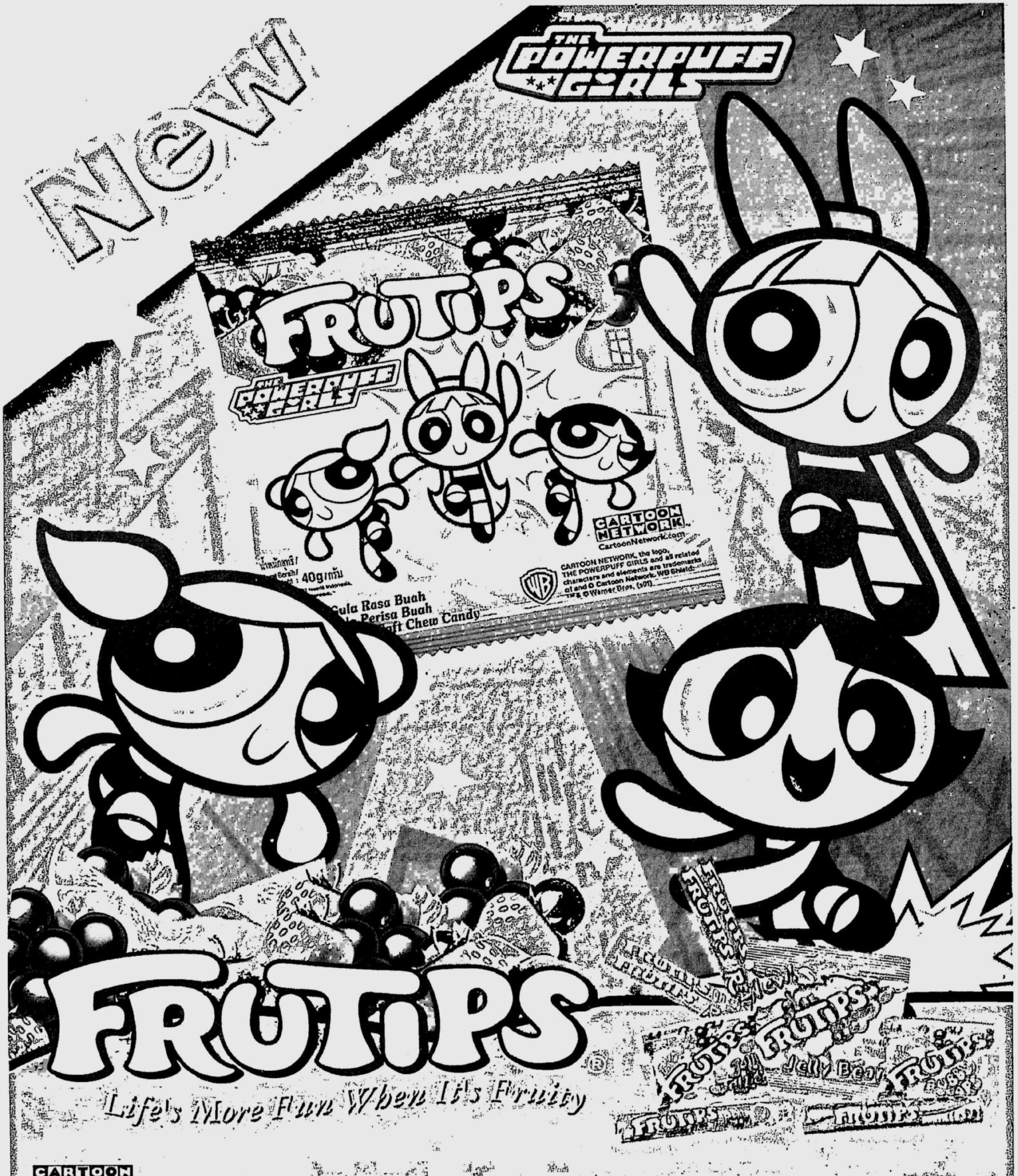
New
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
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Gula Rasa Buah
Perisa Buah
Chew Candy
FRUTIPS®
Life's More Fun When It's Fruity
Jelly Bean

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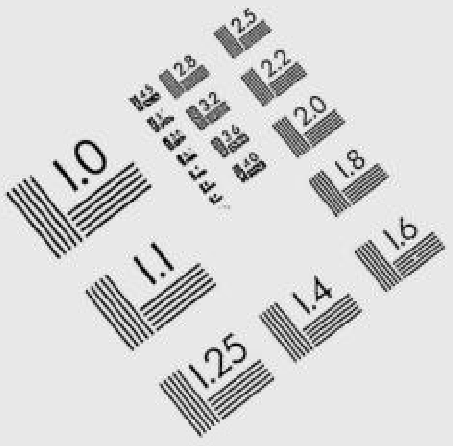
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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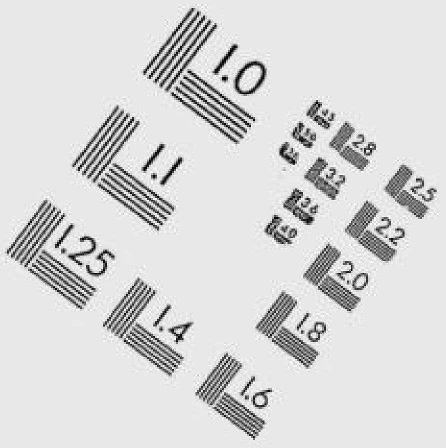
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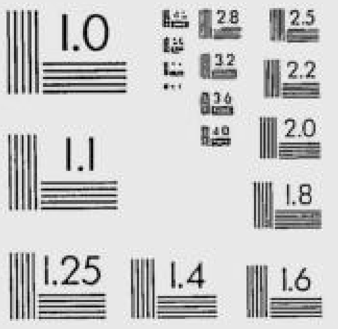
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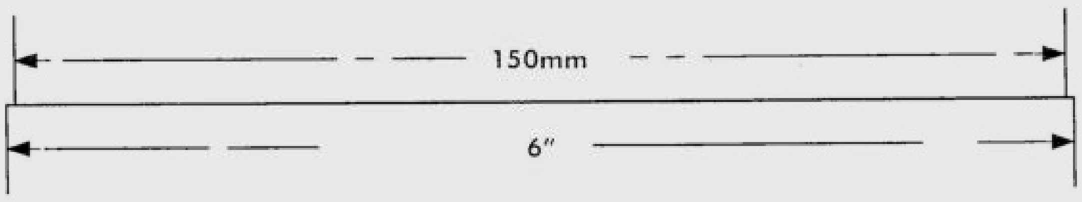

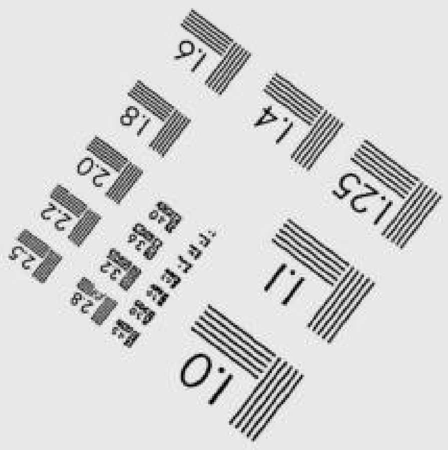
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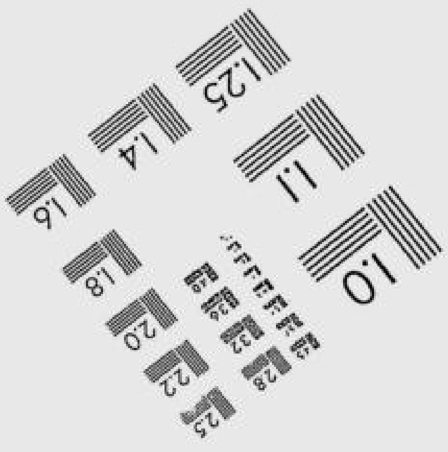
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PLEASE REWIND